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インスタントバレット

5

赤坂アカ

Akasaka Aka

We Don't Need a Happy Ending

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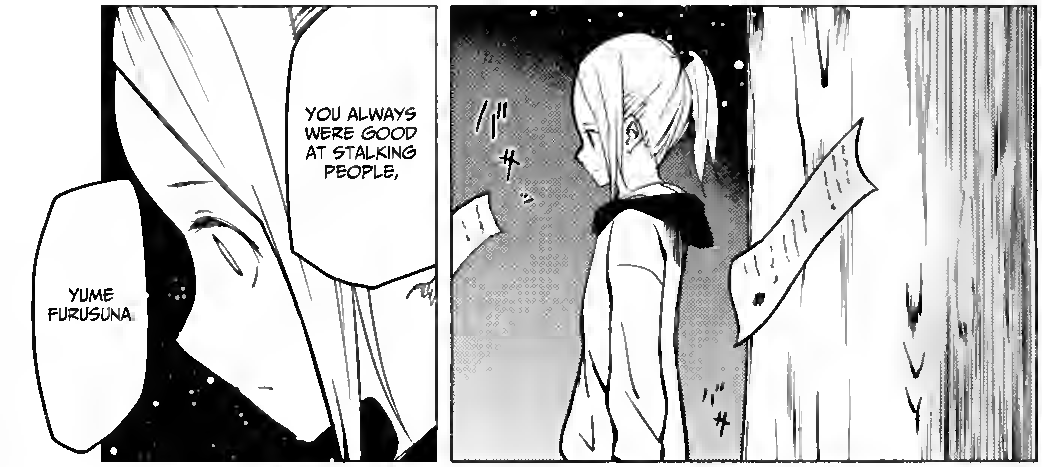
We Don't Need a Happy Ending

赤坂アカ
Akasaka Aka

Chapter 20


YOU ALWAYS WERE GOOD AT STALKING PEOPLE,
YUME FURUSUNA.

HEH.
HOW, YOU ASK?
WHO'RE YOU?
AND HOW DO YOU KNOW MY NAME?

Chapter 20: Sera Himeura is Worthless

ALL MY LIFE,
I'VE NEVER BELIEVED A SINGLE WORD PEOPLE HAVE TOLD ME.
I LEARNED TO SEE WHAT PEOPLE REALLY MEANT WHEN THEY TALKED.
SO I BECAME GREAT AT FIGURING OUT
THINGS THAT PEOPLE WANT TO HIDE.

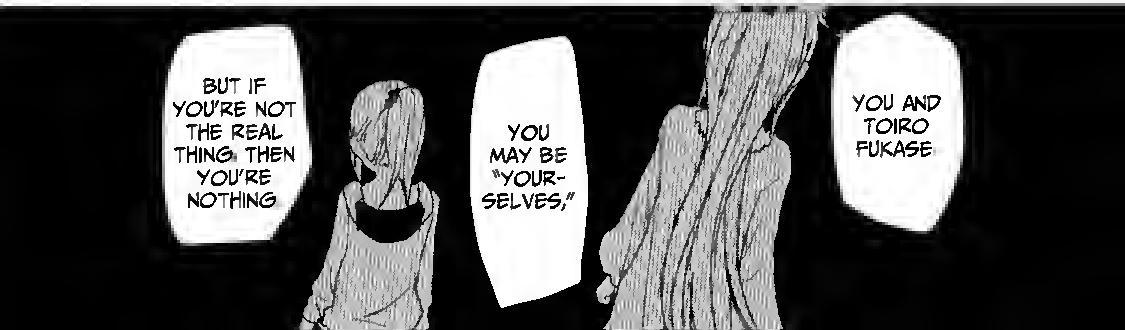
TOIRO AYAKURA...
NO, I GUESS SHE'D PREFER TOIRO FUKASE.
ぺい。
WHAT DO YOU THINK WHEN YOU LOOK AT HER?
I'M NOT A FAKE...
WHAT DO YOU FAKES
THINK OF EACH OTHER?

I DON'T NEED TO BE LIKE HER.
I CAN CHANGE THE FUTURE.
I DON'T NEED TO KEEP FIGHTING LIKE SHE DID.
I'M THE ONE WHO DECIDES WHO I LIKE.
I'M THE ONE WHO DECIDES HOW I LIVE.
I'LL BET THE WITCH SAID THE SAME THING WHEN SHE WAS YOUR AGE.
YOU KNOW,

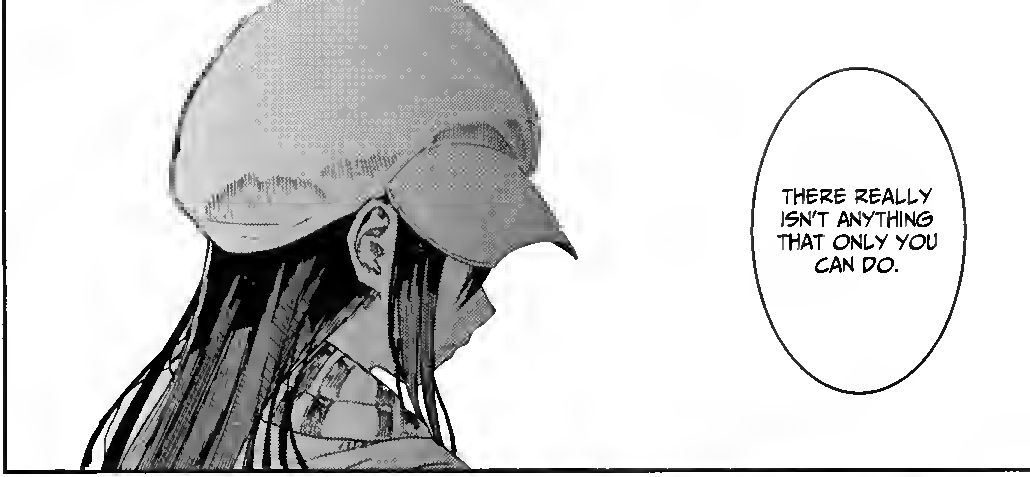
DON'T YOU THINK SO,
FAKE?

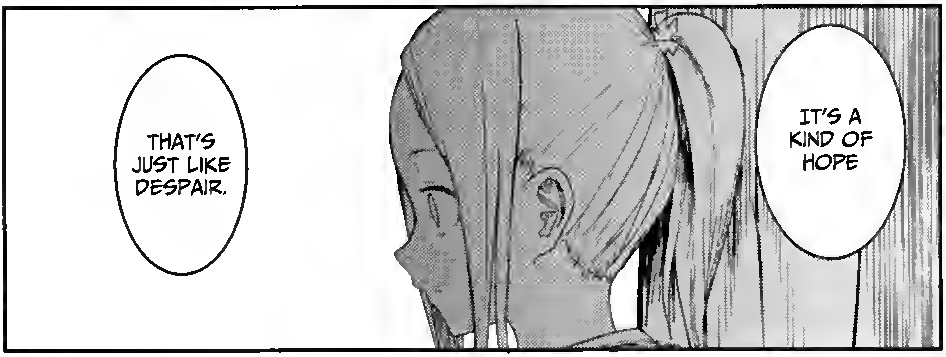
AS FAR AS I SEE IT, YOU'RE NOTHING MORE THAN A FAKE.
AND EVEN IF THE OTHERS DON'T THINK YOU'RE A FAKE,
THEY'LL NEVER ACCEPT YOU AS BEING REAL.

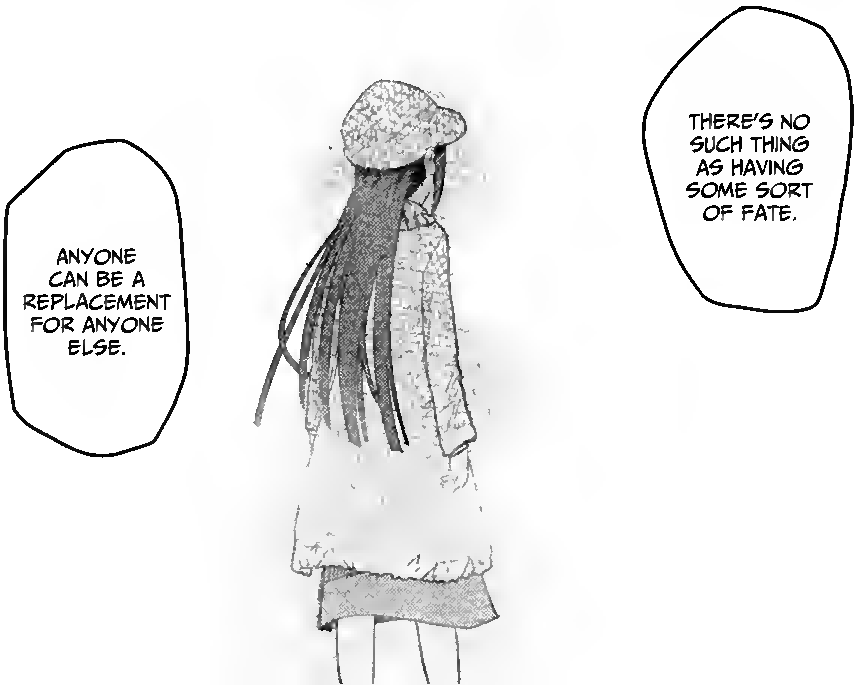
I GET THAT YOU DON'T WANT TO BE CONSIDERED THE SAME AS THE FUTURE WITCH,
BUT THAT'S UP FOR EACH PERSON TO DECIDE FOR THEMSELVES, ISN'T IT?


BUT IF YOU'RE NOT THE REAL THING, THEN YOU'RE NOTHING
YOU MAY BE "YOURSELVES,"
YOU AND TOIRO FUKASE

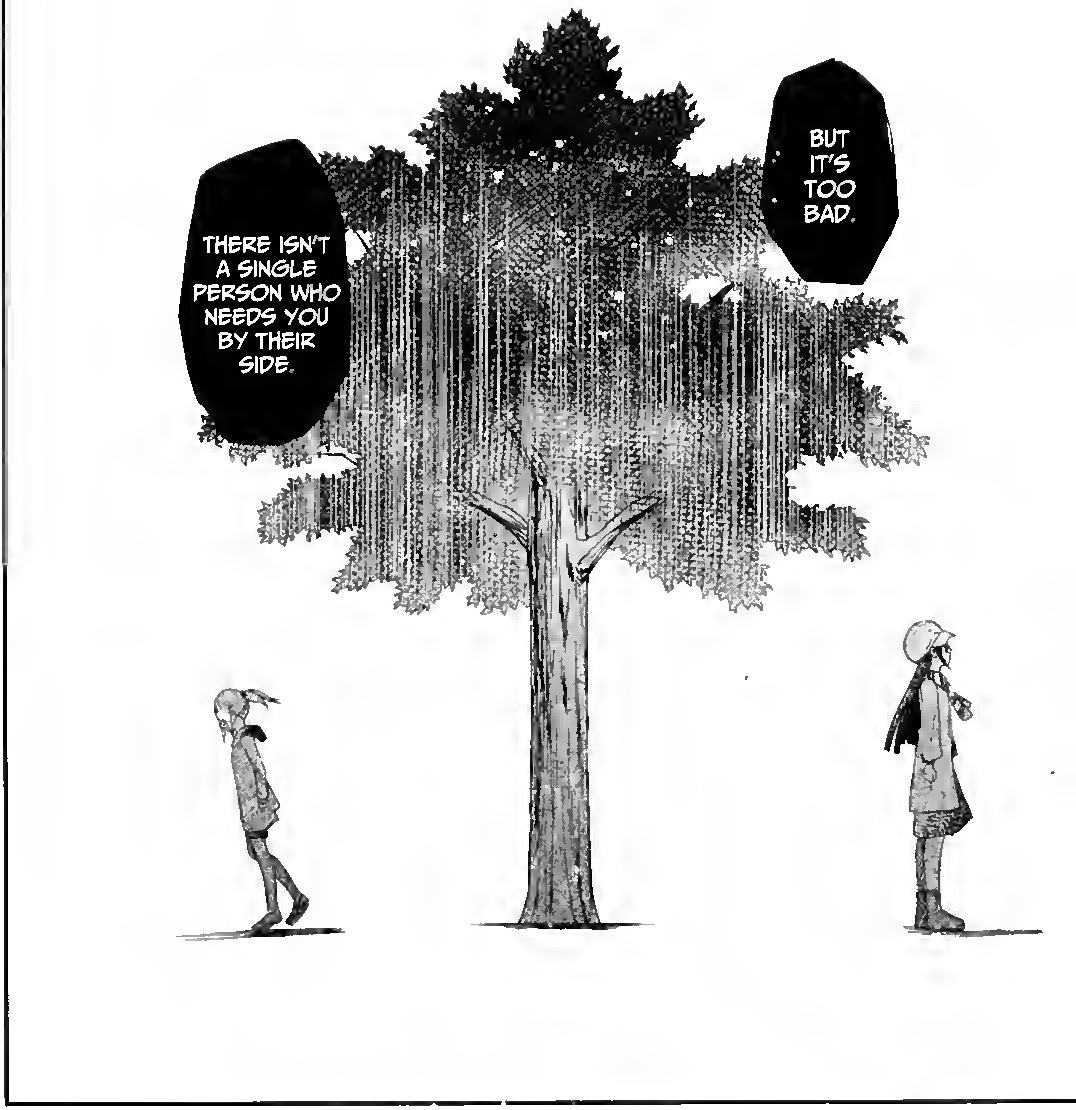
MUST BE TOUGH,
KNOWING YOU'RE NOTHING MORE THAN A REPLACEMENT.
RIGHT?
ANYWAY,
THERE WAS JUST ONE THING I WANTED TO GET ANSWERED TODAY.
ANYONE CAN BE OF USE TO ANYONE.
ANYONE CAN ACCEPT ANYONE AS A REPLACEMENT FOR SOMEONE THEY'VE LOST.


THERE REALLY ISN'T ANYTHING THAT ONLY YOU CAN DO.

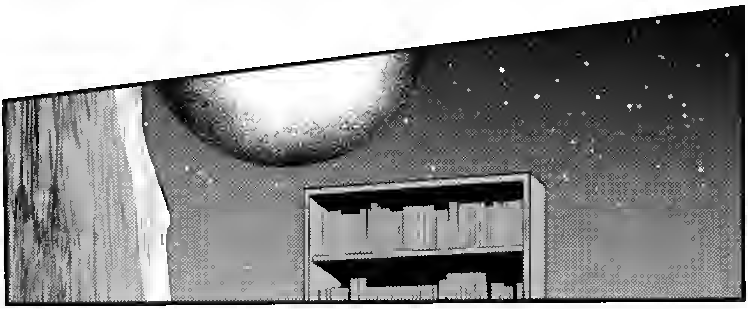

THAT'S JUST LIKE DESPAIR.
IT'S A KIND OF HOPE

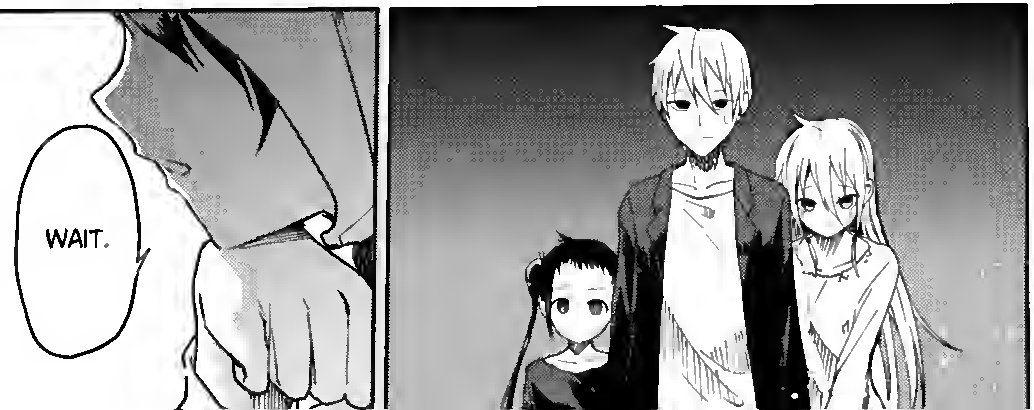

THERE'S NO SUCH THING AS HAVING SOME SORT OF FATE.
ANYONE CAN BE A REPLACEMENT FOR ANYONE ELSE.

TO PUT IT SIMPLY,
YOU CAN PRETEND TO BE FAMILY OR PRETEND TO BE FRIENDS ALL YOU WANT.
YOU CAN TAKE THAT HOWEVER YOU WANT.
IT REALLY DOESN'T MATTER AT ALL.
...YOU'RE A GOOD PERSON.


THERE ISN'T A SINGLE PERSON WHO NEEDS YOU BY THEIR SIDE.
BUT IT'S TOO BAD.

...I KNOW
HOW THAT FEELS.




WAIT.

イラ
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イラ
SO A TON OF STUFF HAPPENED WITHOUT US KNOWING ABOUT IT, AGAIN?
I'M ALREADY PISSED, AND YOU HAVEN'T EVEN TOLD US WHAT HAPPENED YET.

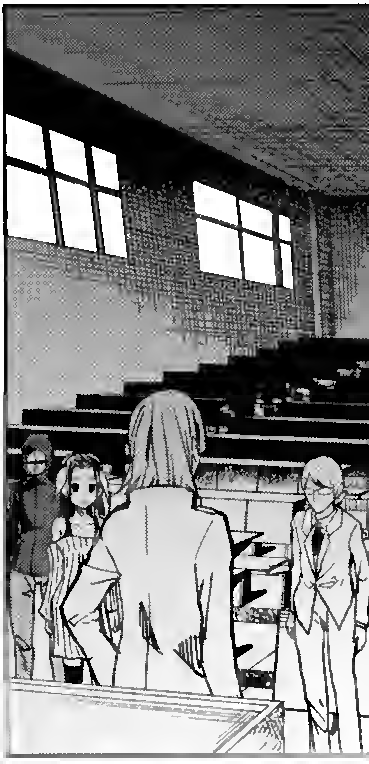
WHAT HAPPENED SO FAR,
AND...
WHAT'S GOING TO HAPPEN NOW.

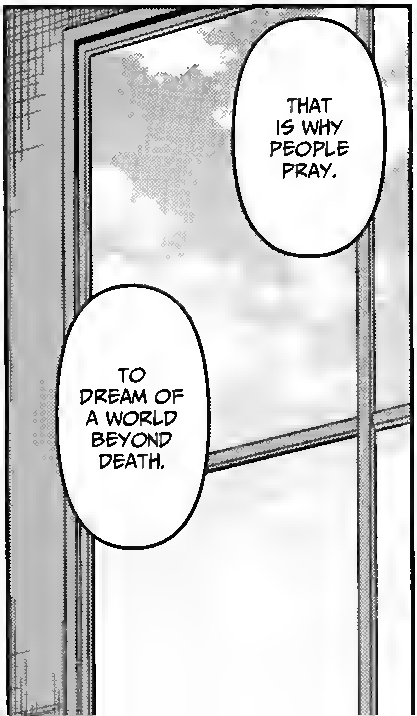
EXPLAIN.

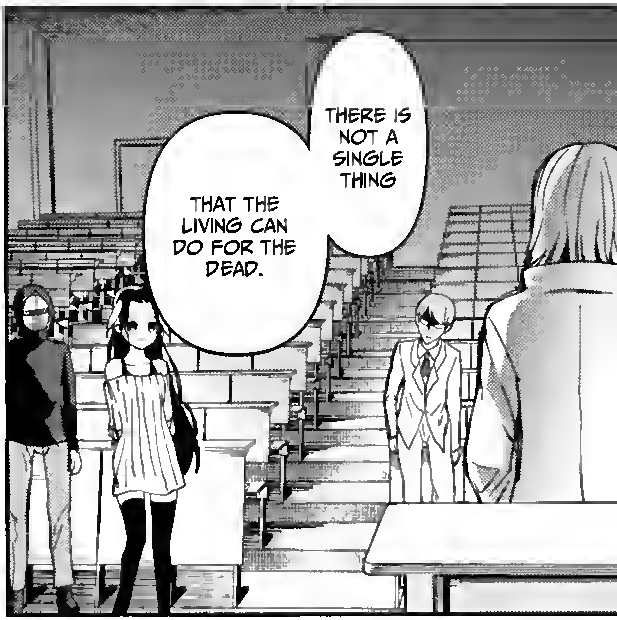
I...
I'LL DO IT.

SHE LEFT THIS FOR ME.
TOP-SECRET THE WITCH'S NOTEBOOK
THE IB OF HEROES,
WHAT COLORFUL WANTS TO USE HER FOR,
AND WHAT WE SHOULD DO.

PEOPLE
END IN DEATH.




THAT IS WHY PEOPLE PRAY.
TO DREAM OF A WORLD BEYOND DEATH.


THERE IS NOT A SINGLE THING
THAT THE LIVING CAN DO FOR THE DEAD.

AND AT SOME POINT, PEOPLE REALIZED THAT.
SO THOSE WISHES WERE GIVEN FORM.
THE IB OF HEROES,
"HEAVEN'S DOOR."

THE MAGIC TO MAKE THE DEAD INTO SOULS.

DOES IT MEAN TO BE AT PEACE?
UM...
WHAT'S IT MEAN TO BECOME A SOUL?

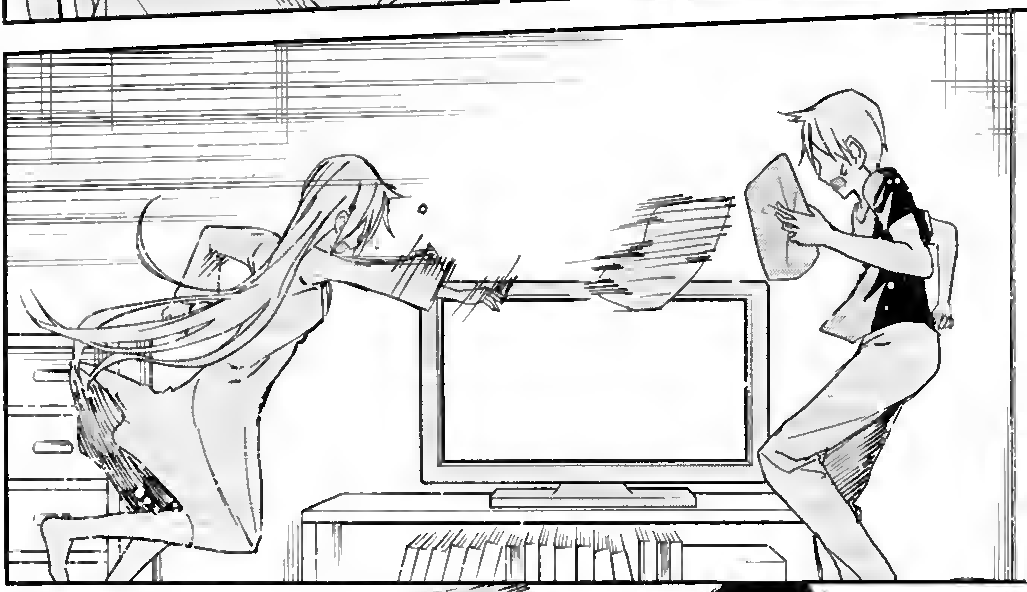
FROM THE HEARTS OF PEOPLE.
PAIN AND SUFFERING WON'T JUST VANISH
WHO KNOWS?
SOULS ARE JUST INFORMATION.

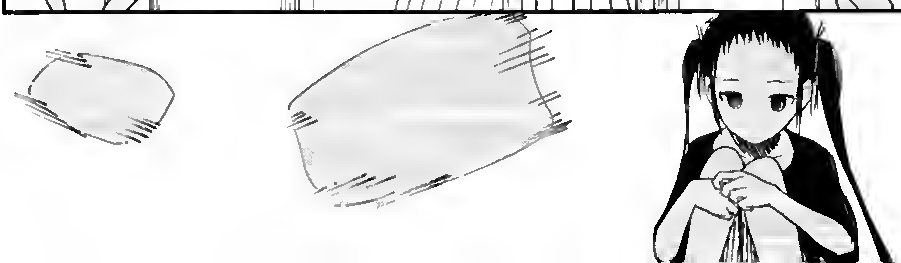
BUT...
A WORLD WITH NO NEED TO EAT OR FIGHT...
A WORLD WHERE THE DEAD WILL STILL EXIST...
I BELIEVE
THAT SUCH A WORLD COULD BE CALLED HEAVEN.

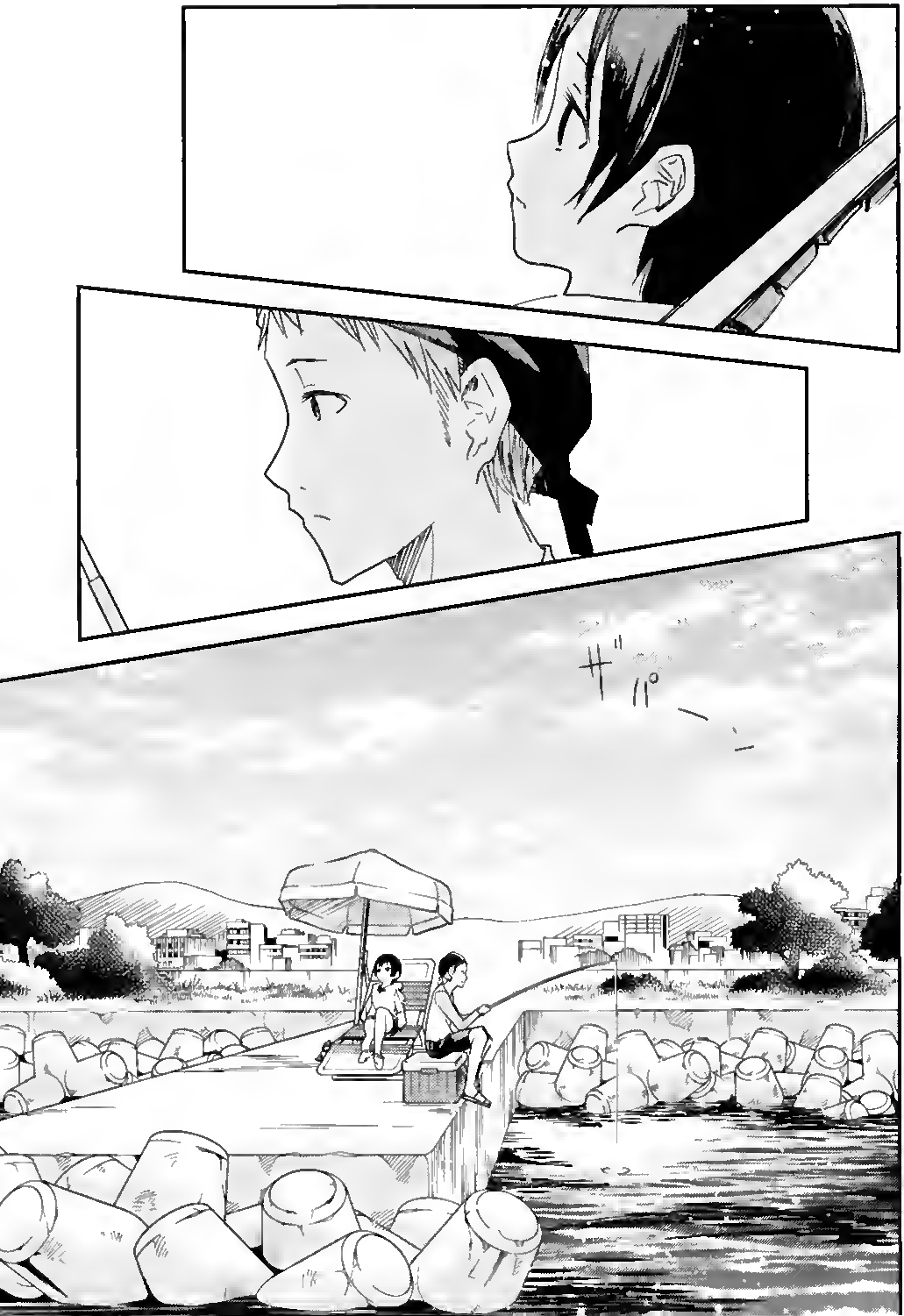
THERE WILL ONLY BE ONE CHANCE
TO OPEN THE DOOR TO HEAVEN.
BEFORE THE DOOR TO HEAVEN,
THE DOOR TO SAVING THE DEAD, VANISHES FOREVER,
HUMANITY
MUST GAIN THE QUALIFICATION NEEDED TO OPEN THE DOOR.

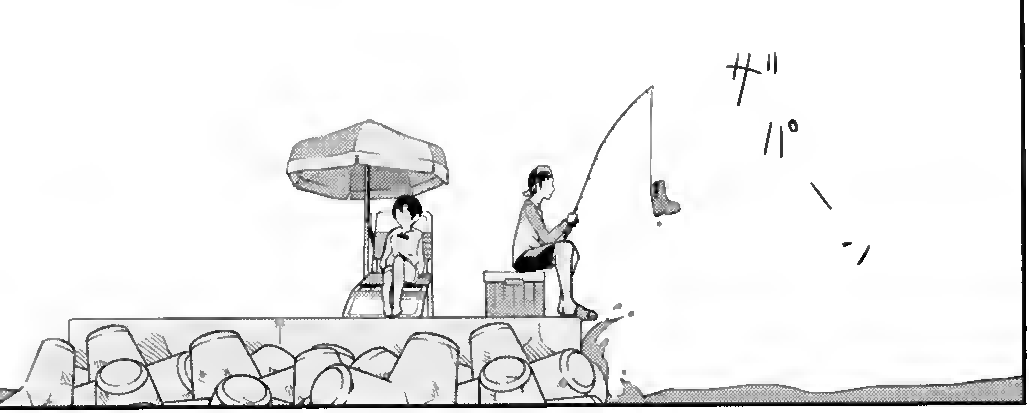
WE MUST CAST AWAY OUR EARTHLY BODIES.

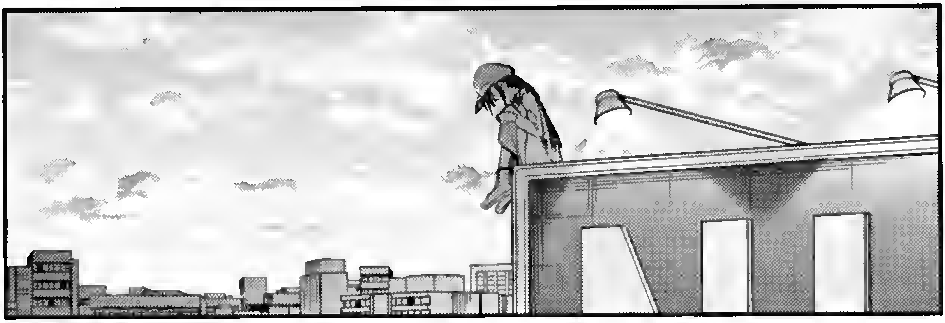
I ASK...
THAT YOU MAKE THIS CHOICE WITH NO REGRETS.











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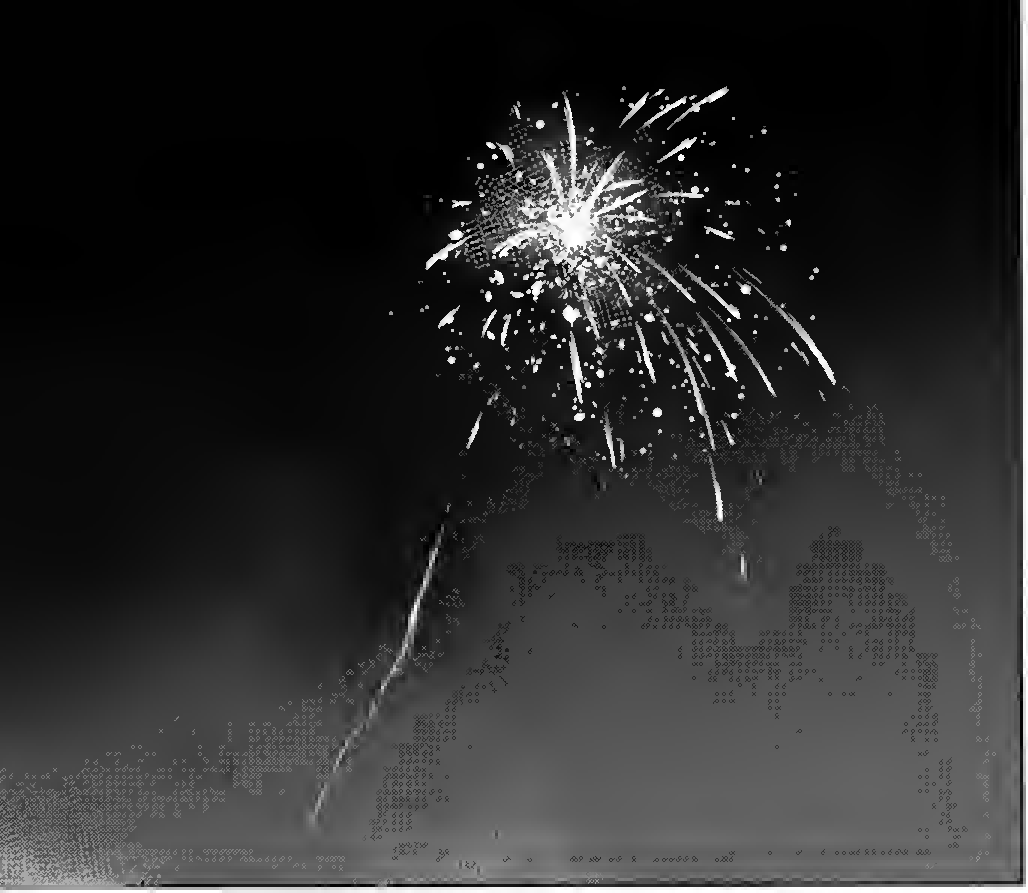
シュタタタタタタ…

……
A CREMA-TION.

WHAT'S HE DOING?

HE THOUGHT WE SHOULD HAVE A PROPER GOODBYE.
FOR HER SAKE.

BUT WHY FIRE-WORKS?
JUST STOP ASKING QUES-TIONS.



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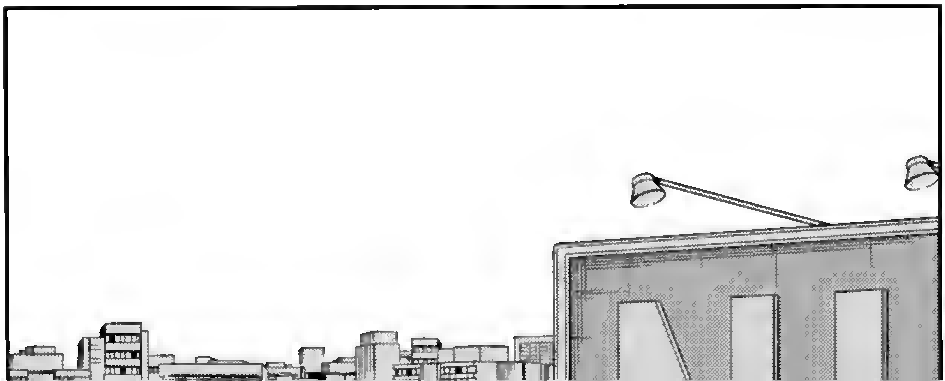
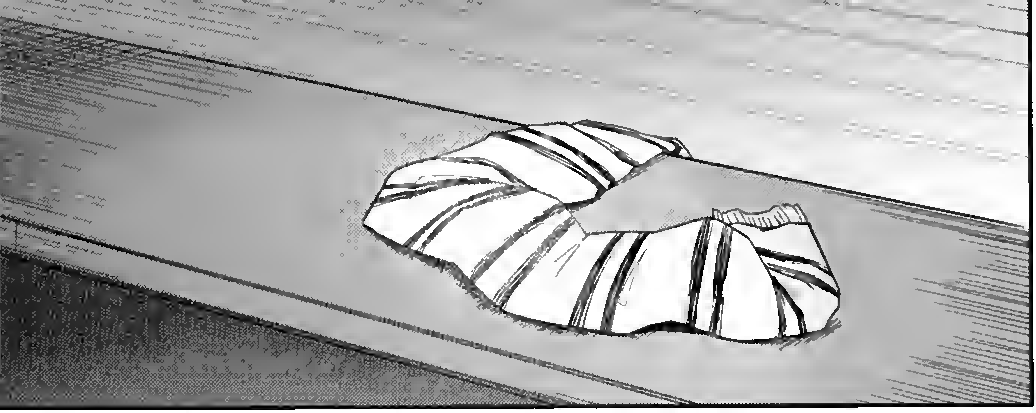
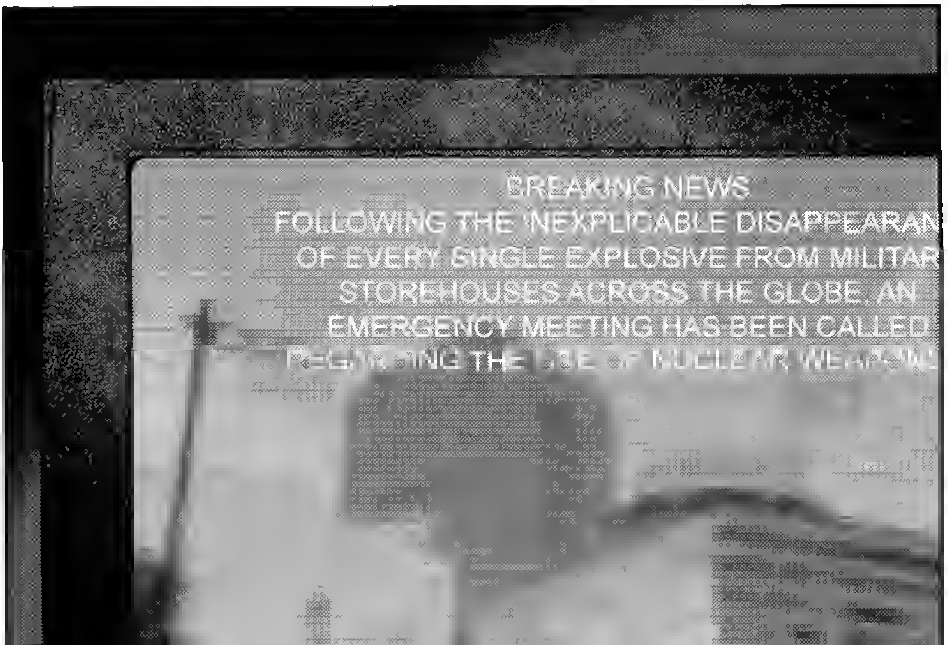
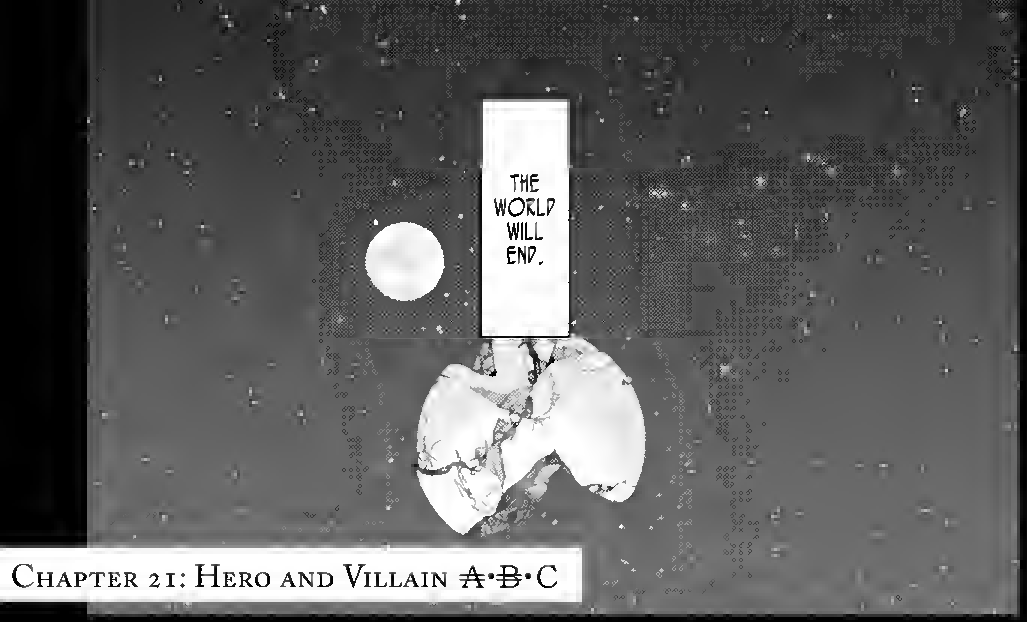
Final Part:
We Don't Need a Happy Ending



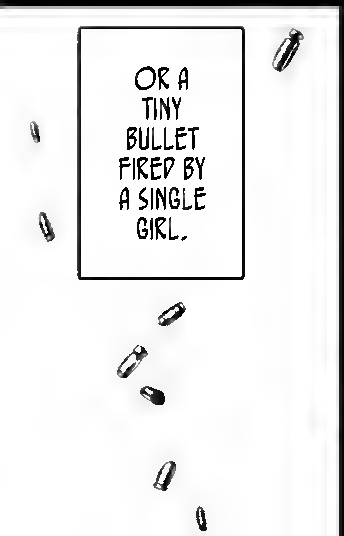



BREAKING NEWS
FOLLOWING THE INEXPLICABLE DISAPPEARAN
OF EVERY SINGLE EXPLOSIVE FROM MILITAR
STOREHOUSES ACROSS THE GLOBE, AN
EMERGENCY MEETING HAS BEEN CALLED
REGARDING THE USE OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS



Chapter 21: Hero and Villain ~~A~~·~~B~~·C

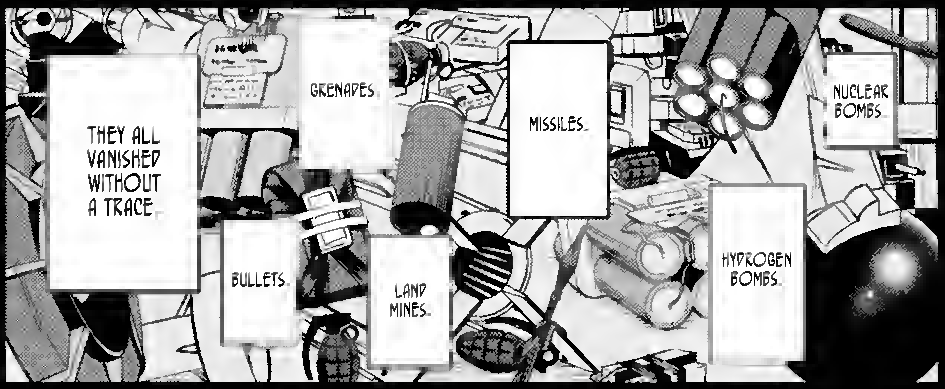
IT COULD BE IN THE DISTANT FUTURE
WHEN THE SUN FINALLY BURNS OUT,
OR WHEN THE EXPANSION OF THE UNIVERSE REACHES THE POINT WHEN ATOMS ARE NO LONGER ABLE TO REMAIN CONNECTED.



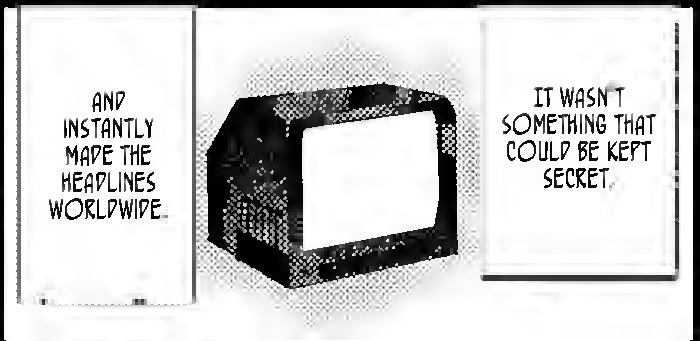
THE WORLD WILL END.
JUST AS EVERY STORY MUST HAVE AN ENDING.
SO TOO, THE WORLD MUST END.

EVERY WEAPON DISAPPEARED FROM THE WORLD.

ON THAT DAY,



OVER THIRTY THOUSAND NUCLEAR BOMBS ALONE HAD VANISHED.
IT WAS ENOUGH TO TURN THE EARTH INTO A BLACKENED WASTELAND THIRTY TIMES OVER.



SOME SAID

EVIL

THAT IT WAS THE END OF THE WORLD.

WAS PART OF WHAT MADE THEM HUMAN.

THE WEAPONS THAT HAD BEEN MADE FOR WAR MAY HAVE DISAPPEARED,
BUT HUMANS HAD WAR EMBEDDED INTO THEIR GENES.
SOME TOOK THIS CHANCE TO ORCHESTRATE BLOODY REVOLUTIONS.
PEOPLE ABANDONED HOPE FOR THE FUTURE, AND LOOTING AND RIOTS BROKE OUT.

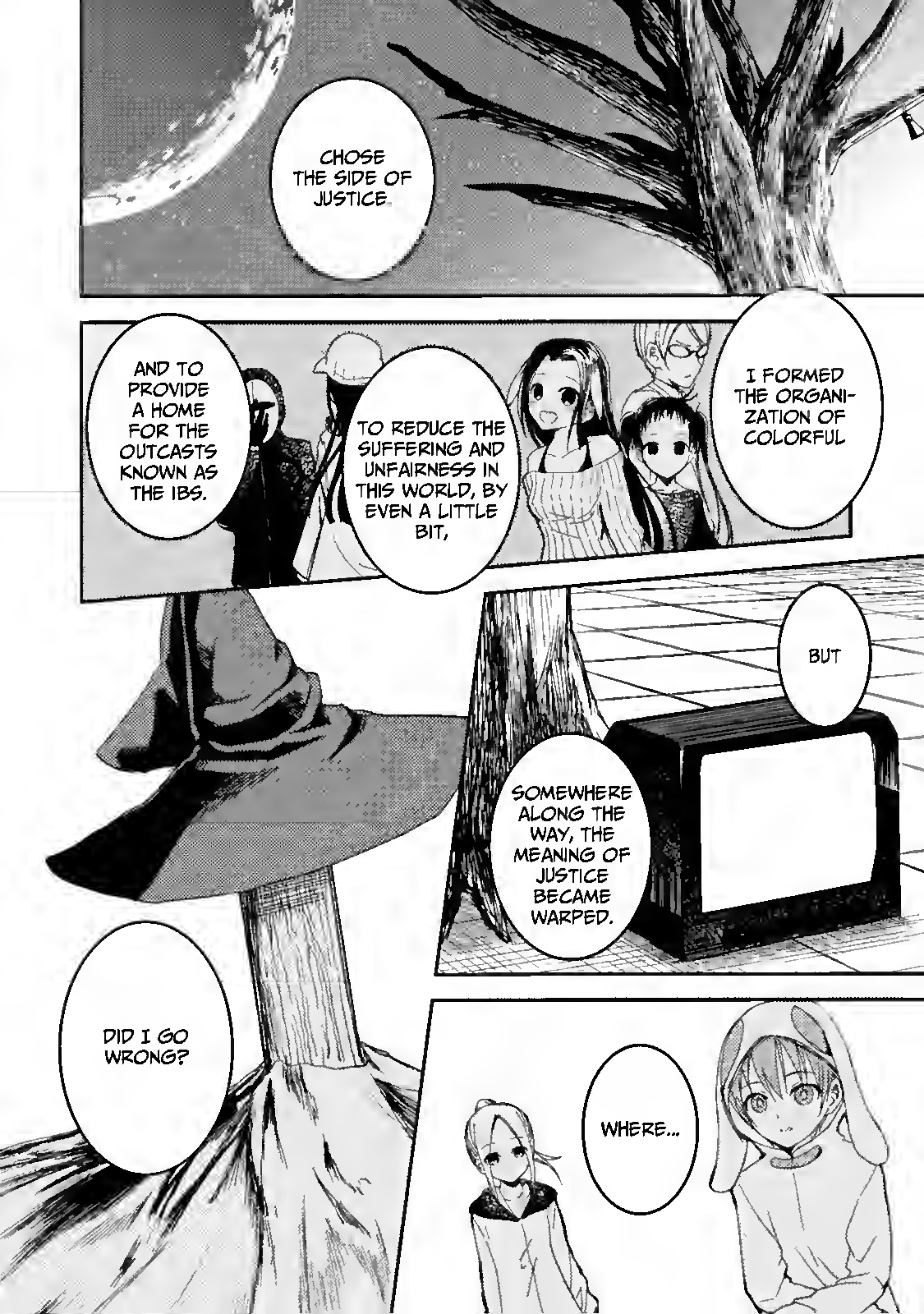
YOU'VE GOT SOME NERVE,
SHOWING YOUR FACE HERE.
IF YOU WANT ME TO APOLOGIZE FOR WHAT HAPPENED TO THE WITCH, I WILL DO SO.
SHE WAS A NECESSARY SACRIFICE FOR OUR PLAN.
YOUR *PLAN*?
NUKING THE PLANET TO GET ALL OF HUMANITY INTO SOME FORCED SUICIDE,
TURNING INTO SOULS AND GOING TO HEAVEN? *THAT* OCCULT BULLSHIT?

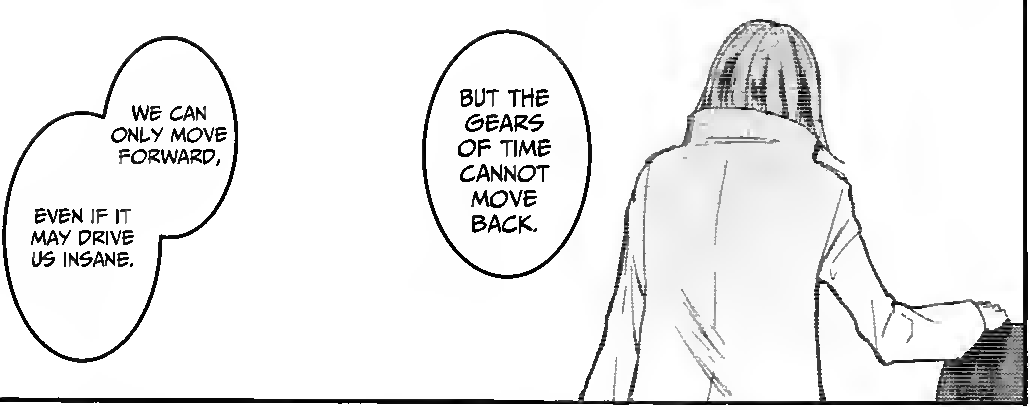
YOU CAN DO NOTHING AND ACCEPT THE DESTRUCTION THAT THE WITCH PREDICTED,
OR YOU CAN CLING ONTO A FAINT HOPE.
WHETHER OR NOT YOU BELIEVE ME IS YOUR CHOICE.
IF YOU HAVE ANY CONSTRUCTIVE IDEAS, BY ALL MEANS, DO TELL ME.
THERE ARE NO OTHER OPTIONS.
CAN YOU GUARANTEE IT?
ドカッ
……

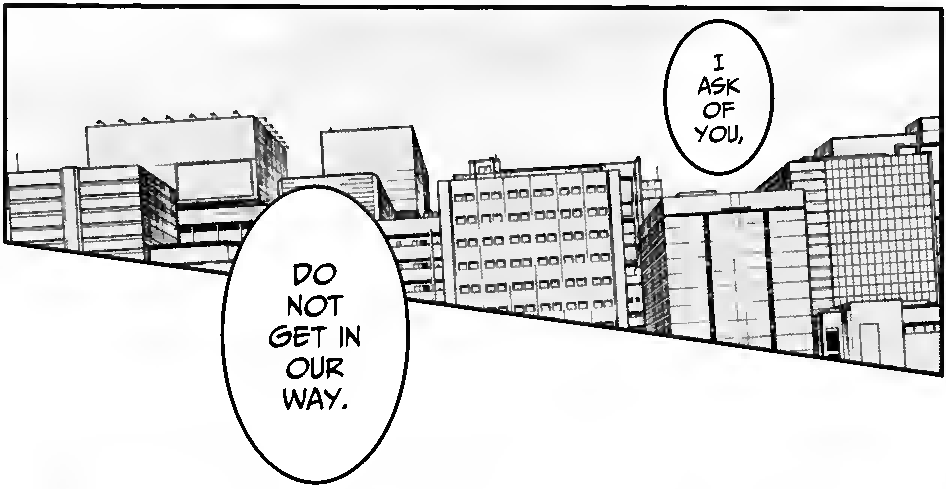
CAN YOU GUARANTEE, WITH ABSOLUTE CERTAINTY, THAT THIS PLAN OF YOURS'LL WORK?
GUAR-ANTEE?
OF COURSE NOT.
THIS HAS ALWAYS BEEN A DANGEROUS PLAN WITH VERY LOW CHANCES OF SUCCESS.
THOUGH PERHAPS THE WITCH MIGHT HAVE BEEN ABLE TO SEE IF IT WOULD WORK OR NOT.
BUT ALL WE CAN DO IS CLING TO THAT SLIM THREAD OF HOPE.
ASSHOLE.
PERHAPS THAT WAS WHY SHE TRIED TO STOP US.

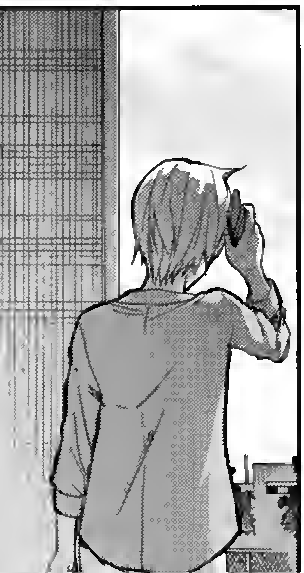
HE AND HIS PEOPLE ARE NO HEROES.
.....
WHY ARE YOU EVEN BOTHERING TO TAKE HIM SERIOUSLY, FUJINAMI?
DO YOU THINK HAVING SUPERPOWERS MAKES YOU GOD?
RIDICU-LOUS.
NUCLEAR BOMBS? HEAVEN? WHAT IS THIS, SOME NEW RELIGION?
DO YOU SERIOUSLY NOT GET THAT!?
YOU CAN'T JUST KILL PEOPLE FOR YOUR PLANS!!

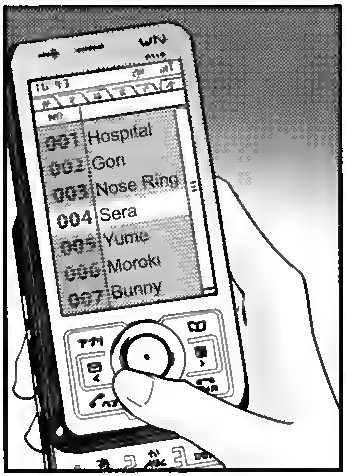
NOT EVEN I KNEW THE WITCH HAD SUCH A DEEPLY HIDDEN SECRET.
PERHAPS I WOULDN'T HAVE HAD TO RESORT TO VIOLENCE.
CRAP...
SHE'S WAY TOO HONEST...
WELL, I CAN'T REALLY RESPOND TO THAT.
AHH, HOW NOSTALGIC.
THE DAY I FIRST MET HER.
YOU'RE JUST LIKE SHE WAS
HOW-EVER,
I...

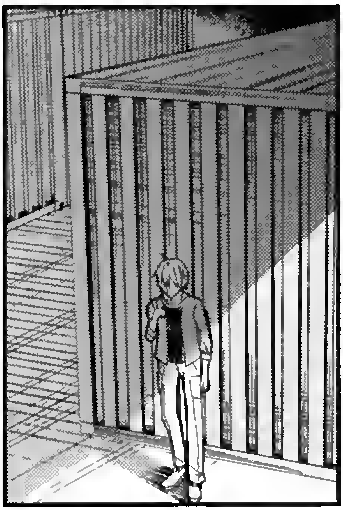

CHOSE THE SIDE OF JUSTICE.
I FORMED THE ORGANIZATION OF COLORFUL
TO REDUCE THE SUFFERING AND UNFAIRNESS IN THIS WORLD, BY EVEN A LITTLE BIT,
AND TO PROVIDE A HOME FOR THE OUTCASTS KNOWN AS THE IBS.
BUT
SOMEWHERE ALONG THE WAY, THE MEANING OF JUSTICE BECAME WARPED.
DID I GO WRONG?
WHERE...


WE CAN ONLY MOVE FORWARD,
EVEN IF IT MAY DRIVE US INSANE.
BUT THE GEARS OF TIME CANNOT MOVE BACK.


I ASK OF YOU,
DO NOT GET IN OUR WAY.




001 Hospital
002 Gon
003 Nose Ring
004 Sera
005 Yume
006 Moroki
007 Bunny



BEEP
001 KUKO
SERA...?
YOU'RE REALLY
REALLY LATE.
YOU'RE LATE.
.....

SORRY.
IT'S ALREADY BEEN HALF A YEAR
SINCE WE EXCHANGED NUMBERS ON CHRISTMAS EVE.
IT'S ALL TOO LATE.
SERA
WHERE ARE YOU?
WHY WOULD I TELL YOU THAT?
YOU'RE MY ENEMY.

IT LOOKS LIKE NO MATTER WHAT I DO, I END UP BEING THE VILLAIN.
DID YOU KNOW THAT I WAS THE ONE WHO CAME UP WITH THE PLAN TO KILL THE WITCH?
I WATCHED HER DIE,
BUT I DIDN'T FEEL LIKE I WAS DOING ANYTHING BAD AT ALL.
I DIDN'T REALIZE IT,
BUT IT LOOKS LIKE I REALLY AM
EVIL.
EVEN WHEN ALL THOSE PEOPLE WERE GOING TO DIE BECAUSE OF ME MAKING THAT SATELLITE FALL,
I DIDN'T FEEL A THING.

I THINK
YOU'LL FIT THE JOB.
SO THERE SHOULD BE SOMEONE TO STOP ME.
I AM THE VILLAIN.
SO THAT MAKES YOU THE HERO.
I'M GOING TO DROP THE BOMBS.
TOMORROW AT DAWN.

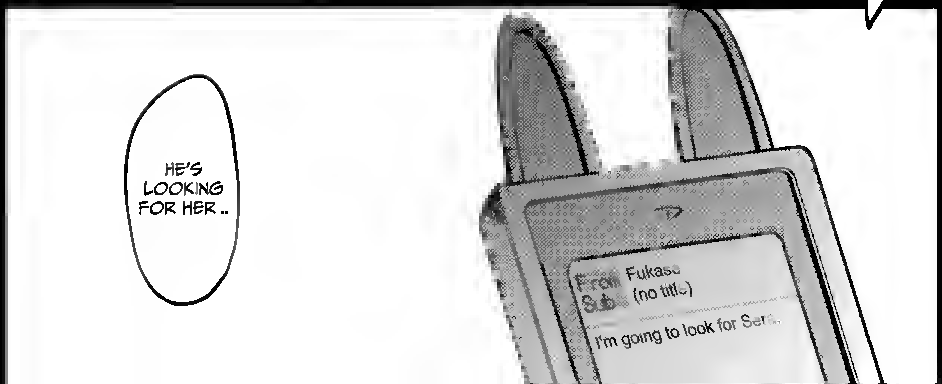
TO...
SO...
YOU HAVE UNTIL THEN...
I'LL STOP YOU.
I'LL FIND YOU, AND I'LL STOP YOU.

CAN YOU DO IT?
I'M REALLY GOOD AT HIDING.
WATCH ME.
...WELL,
IT DOESN'T MATTER.
ALRIGHT.
DO YOUR BEST.
IT'S BEEN A WHILE SINCE I PLAYED HIDE AND SEEK.
BUT YOU KNOW, KURO...

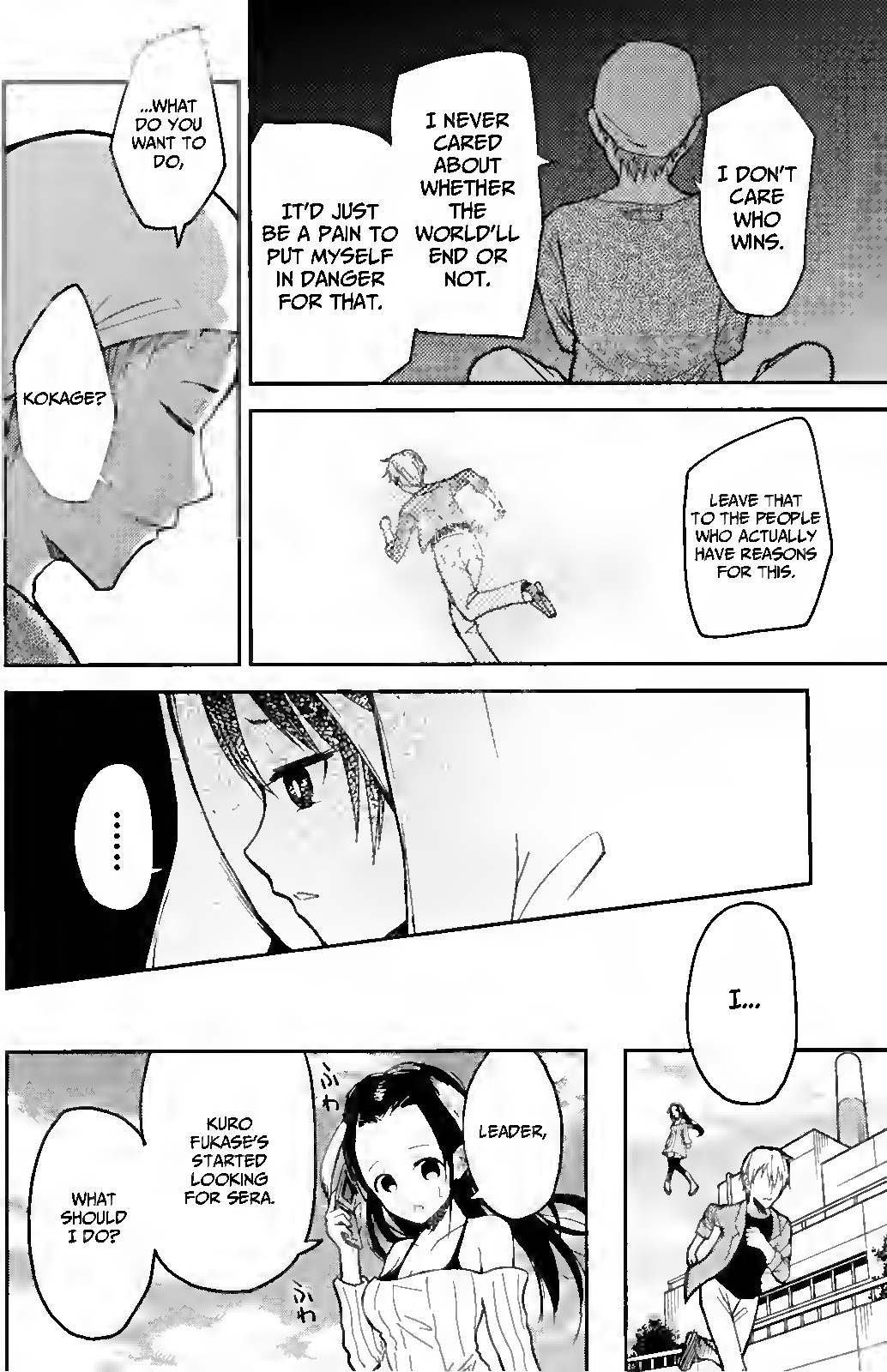
WHEN I PLAY HIDE AND SEEK...
NO ONE'S EVER FOUND ME.

CHAPTER 22
STIIIILL HAVEN'T♪
FOOOUND ME.♪
STIIIILL HAVEN'T♪
FOOOUND ME.♪
I WONDER IF KURO'LL FIND ME HERE?
RIGHT.
I SHOULD USE THIS.
UMM, SUNRISE TODAY IS...

Chapter 22:
Afterschool Hide and Seek



!
...OKAY,
BUT...
.....
タッ
WE SHOULD GO LOOK FOR HER TOO.
...I'LL PASS.
...ME TOO.
I DON'T THINK ANYONE'S RIGHT THIS TIME.


I DON'T CARE WHO WINS.
I NEVER CARED ABOUT WHETHER THE WORLD'LL END OR NOT.
IT'D JUST BE A PAIN TO PUT MYSELF IN DANGER FOR THAT.
...WHAT DO YOU WANT TO DO,
KOKAGE?
LEAVE THAT TO THE PEOPLE WHO ACTUALLY HAVE REASONS FOR THIS.
.....
I...
LEADER,
KURO FUKASE'S STARTED LOOKING FOR SERA.
WHAT SHOULD I DO?
ふわ
ふわ

ELIMINATE ANYONE WHO GETS IN THE WAY OF OUR PLAN.
OBVI-OUSLY,
UNDER-STOOD.
.....
UM,
FUKASE,
SORRY, BUT YOU'RE GETTING IN OUR WAY.
TOIRO...
YEAH.
I KNOW.

HALF-BEAST!!
IB OF CREATION:

...I'M SENDING THE OTHERS AS BACKUP.
HOLD OFF TOIRO.
OKAY.

HE JUST PULLED OUT A LAST-MINUTE POWER-UP...
ヒュー
LEADEEEEER...

DO NOT LET KURO FUKASE REACH SERA UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES.
TO THINK THAT THE FATE OF THE ENTIRE WORLD RESTS ON A GAME OF HIDE AND SEEK...
パタン
WILL HER BOMBS GO OFF FIRST,
OR WILL HE REACH HER FIRST?
NO...
I SUPPOSE IT'S SURPRISINGLY INDIVIDUALISTIC...

THINK...
WHERE IS SERA HIDING!?
IF I WERE SERA, WHERE WOULD I GO...
STOP, FUKASE.
YOU'VE BECOME QUITE THE HINDRANCE TO OUR PLAN.
I DON'T CARE.

IF YOU GO ANY FURTHER, I'LL SIGN THIS.
シャン.
THEN I SUPPOSE I DON'T HAVE A CHOICE.

"IN THE EVENT THAT KURO FUKASE CATCHES SERA HIMEURA,
AIJI KARIGANE WILL KILL HIMSELF."

...BOTH YOU AND I
KNOW HOW YOU REALLY THINK.

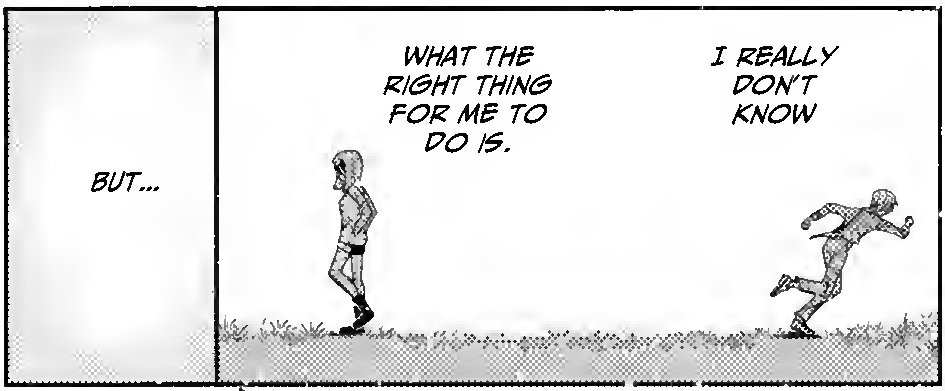
YOU'RE USING YOURSELF AS A HOSTAGE...?
ARE YOU LITERALLY RETARDED?

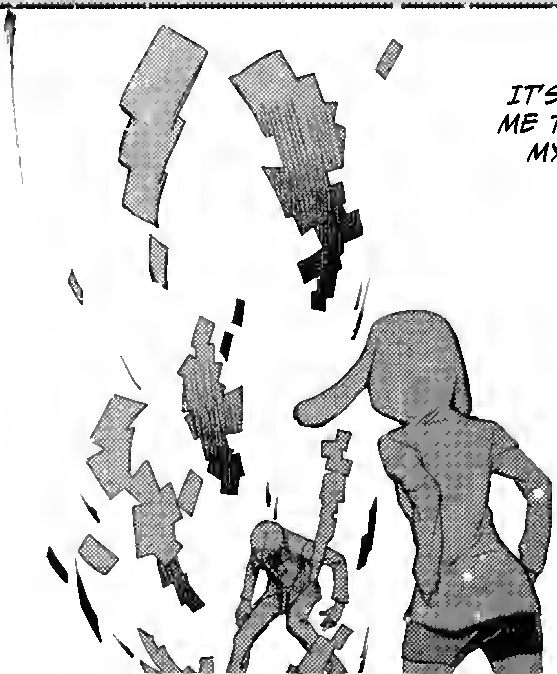
YOU CANNOT LET ANYONE DIE
AS A DIRECT CONSEQUENCE OF YOUR OWN ACTIONS.
I CAN RISK MY OWN LIFE!
I MUST RISK IT!!
.....
ARE YOU WILLING TO RISK OTHER PEOPLE'S LIVES?

DID YOU... FORGET WHAT YOU DID TO OUR FRIEND?
I'LL STILL LOOK FOR SERA, EVEN IF YOU SIGN THAT.
I DON'T CARE.
AS FAR AS I'M CONCERNED, THAT'S JUST SUICIDE.
.....
THEN...
SO BE IT.

SO EVEN IF YOU WERE HER ENEMY,
I WON'T LET YOU KILL YOURSELF IN FRONT OF ME.
GH...
I WILL...!!

HEY, FUKASE.
I'LL HANDLE THIS! GO!

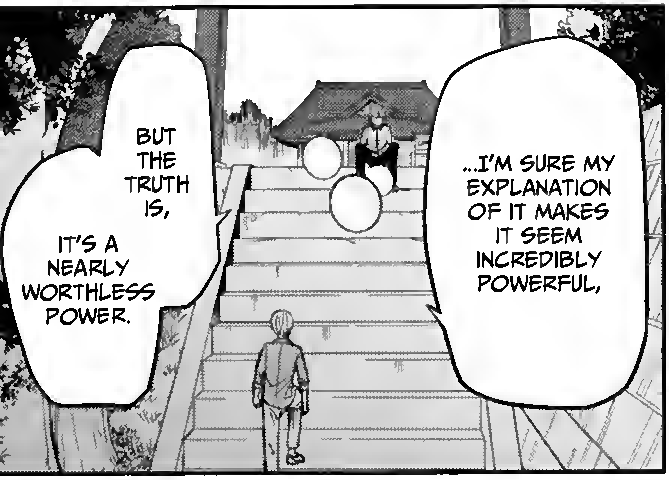

BUT...
WHAT THE RIGHT THING FOR ME TO DO IS.
I REALLY DON'T KNOW

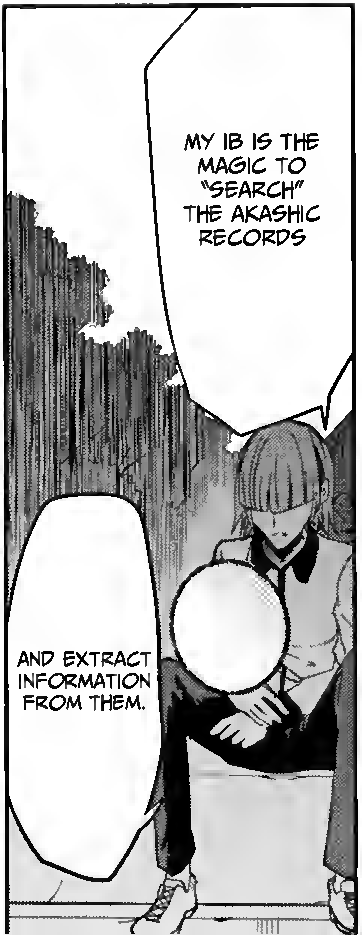

RIGHT?
IT'S OKAY FOR ME TO PROTECT MY FRIENDS,

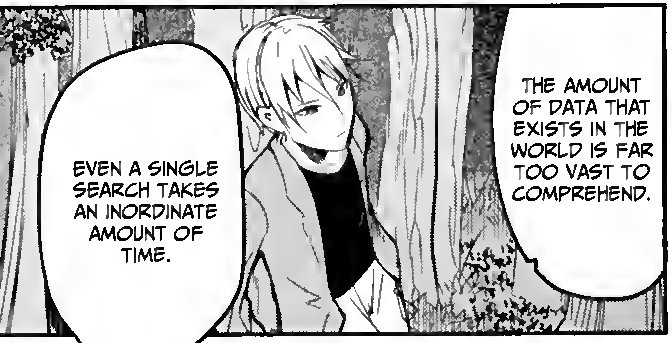
ADULTS GETTING IN THE WAY OF KIDS PLAYING HIDE AND SEEK IS JUST WRONG.
YOU GET TO PLAY WITH ME.

WERE YOU WAITING HERE?
YES. I KNEW YOU'D COME HERE.
I KNOW EVERYTHING ABOUT YOU.

THE AKASHIC RECORDS.
ALL INFORMATION IS RECORDED THERE.
FROM THE BEGINNING OF THE WORLD TO ITS END


...I'M SURE MY EXPLANATION OF IT MAKES IT SEEM INCREDIBLY POWERFUL,
BUT THE TRUTH IS,
IT'S A NEARLY WORTHLESS POWER.

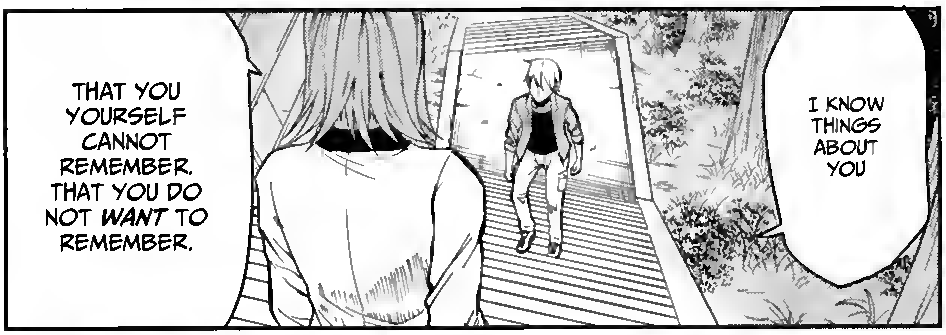

MY IB IS THE MAGIC TO "SEARCH" THE AKASHIC RECORDS
AND EXTRACT INFORMATION FROM THEM.


THE AMOUNT OF DATA THAT EXISTS IN THE WORLD IS FAR TOO VAST TO COMPREHEND.
EVEN A SINGLE SEARCH TAKES AN INORDINATE AMOUNT OF TIME.

A WEEK TO LEARN WHERE A LOST WALLET WAS DROPPED.
A MONTH TO LEARN WHAT SERA IS THINKING RIGHT NOW.
TO LEARN ABOUT THE FUTURE THE WITCH SAW...
EVEN A LIFETIME MIGHT NOT BE ENOUGH.
NO MATTER WHAT, IT WOULD TAKE TOO LONG.
BY THE TIME I HAD WHAT I NEEDED TO KNOW, IT WOULD ALL BE TOO LATE.
A TRULY POWERLESS, WORTHLESS MAGIC.

Chapter 23:
People Who Know People

I KNOW HOW YOU CRIED WHEN YOU FIRST CAME INTO THIS WORLD.
I KNOW HOW YOU FELT WHEN YOUR MOTHER THREW YOU INTO A RIVER.
スッ…


I KNOW THINGS ABOUT YOU
THAT YOU YOURSELF CANNOT REMEMBER. THAT YOU DO NOT *WANT* TO REMEMBER.

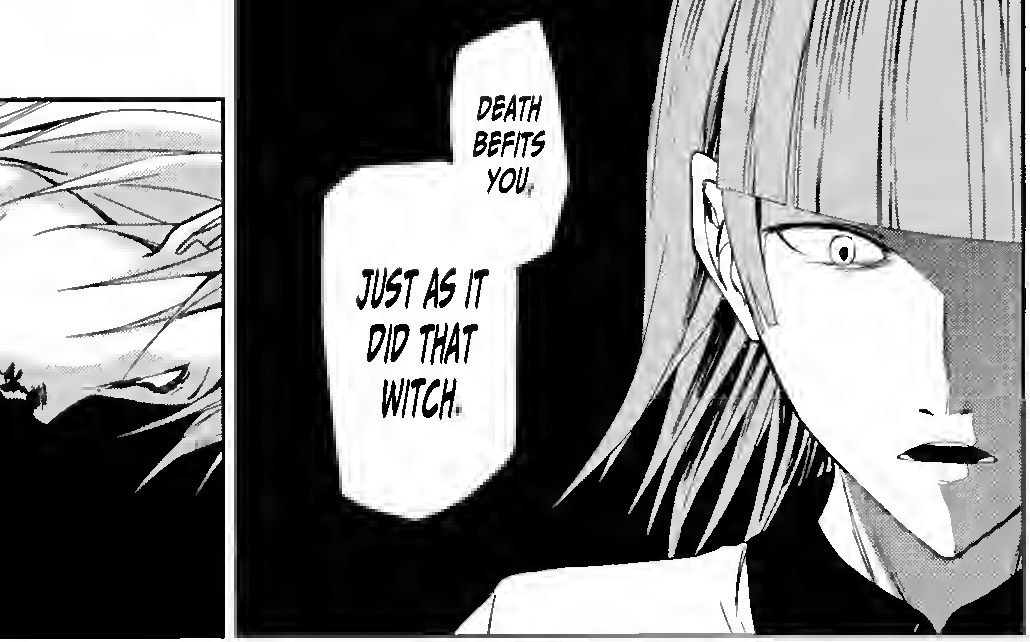
I UNDERSTAND YOU BETTER THAN YOU UNDERSTAND YOURSELF.
AND OF COURSE,
I KNOW YOUR WEAKNESSES BETTER THAN ANYONE.
THEN
WHEN SOMEONE GETS IN MY WAY...

I ALWAYS...
GET THEM OUT OF MY WAY BY FORCE!!
YOU SHOULD KNOW WHAT I DO TO THEM, RIGHT?
OF COURSE I KNOW THAT.

HOW YOU HIT.
HOW YOU DODGE KICKS.
HOW YOU FORGET WHAT PAIN FEELS LIKE.
WHAT YOU THINK,
AND HOW YOU FEEL WHEN YOU HIT PEOPLE!
IF YOU DON'T KNOW, THEN I'LL TELL YOU.
TO YOU, VIOLENCE IS
THE ONLY WAY YOU KNOW HOW TO COMMUNICATE WITH OTHER PEOPLE,
TAUGHT TO YOU BY YOUR PARENTS.

YOUR VIOLENCE CANNOT EVEN SUSTAIN YOUR OWN RESOLVE.
YOU CAN NEVER UNDERSTAND OTHERS!
THAT IS THE ONLY KIND OF RELATIONSHIP YOU CAN FORM.
HATE, AND BE HATED.
SOMETHING LIKE THAT COULD NEVER STOP MY RESOLVE!
HE'S...
STRONG ENOUGH EVEN IF HE DIDN'T KNOW WHAT I'LL DO...

IF YOU WISH SO BADLY TO STAND IN THE WAY OF JUSTICE,
THEN SHOW ME YOUR RESOLVE!
GET UP, FUKASE.
.....
I'VE SEEN IT.
YOUR RESOLVE WAS ALWAYS FAINT.
YOU'RE NOTHING MORE THAN A VIOLENT CHILD THROWING A TANTRUM.
IT SEEMS
THERE TRULY IS NO HELPING THE EXISTENCES KNOWN AS IBS.


DEATH BEFITS YOU.
JUST AS IT DID THAT WITCH.

I CAME TO UNDERSTAND YOU.
HAVING TO BEAR SO MUCH HATRED,
LEAVING A DESIRE TO END THE WORLD IN YOUR HEARTS.
YOU "PEOPLE" WHO CANNOT UNDERSTAND LOVE ARE DEFECTIVE.
BUT
THAT'S WHAT MAKES YOU SO EASY TO CONTROL.

CON...
TROL...?
YES.
WHY DO YOU THINK I SPENT SEVEN YEARS LEARNING ABOUT ALL OF YOU?
I WAS WATCHING ALL OF THEM
SO I COULD KILL ANY OF THEM IF THEY BECAME TOO DANGEROUS.
I KNOW EVERYTHING ABOUT THE MEMBERS OF COLORFUL.
THEY ALL HAVE DEEP-ROOTED TRAUMAS AND COMPLEXES,
ALLOWING ME TO EASILY WIN THEM OVER TO MY SIDE.
IT ALL TURNED OUT WELL IN THE END, THOUGH.
JUST LIKE THE WITCH.

EVEN SERA
WAS SO,
SO EASY.
SEE?
SO PURE AND SIMPLE.
YOU ARE AGGRES-SIVE.
BECAUSE YOU WERE CAST ASIDE,
YOU CAST ASIDE THE WORLD IN RETURN.

YOU CANNOT DO ANYTHING.
YOU ARE WEAK.
YOU ARE TWISTED.
YOU ARE UNKIND.
YOU ARE LIARS.
YOU ARE COWARDS.
YOU CANNOT TRUST PEOPLE.

YOU ARE UNFIT TO LIVE AMONG OTHER... PEOPLE!
THE MORE I LEARNED OF YOU,
THE MORE I UNDER-STOOD THAT.
キリッ
THE MORE I LEARNED,
THE MORE I PITIED YOU.
VS
I THOUGHT—

THAT PERHAPS SOMETHING THIS PURE
COULD BE LOVE.

YOUR PAIN AND SUFFERING TOOK ROOT IN MY HEART AND DROVE ME MAD.
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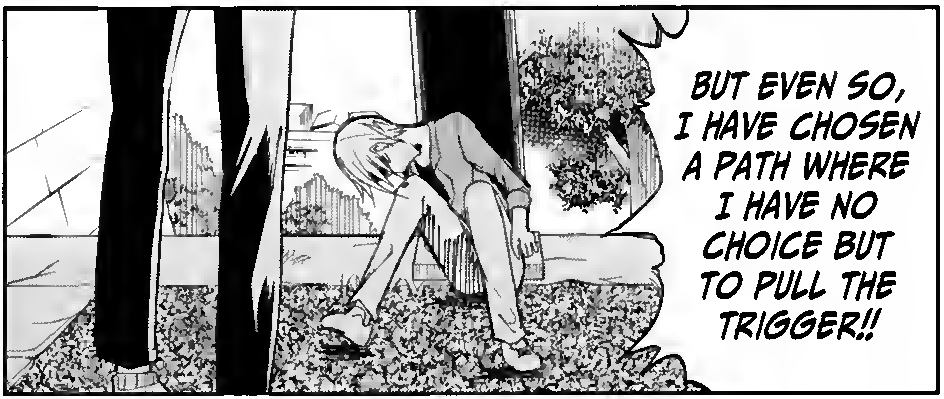

BUT EVEN SO, I HAVE CHOSEN A PATH WHERE I HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO PULL THE TRIGGER!!

NOT ONLY THE WITCH,
BUT SO MANY HAVE THEIR BLOOD ON MY HANDS.
I MUST COMPLETE MY TASK,
OR ALL THEIR DEATHS WILL HAVE BEEN IN VAIN.

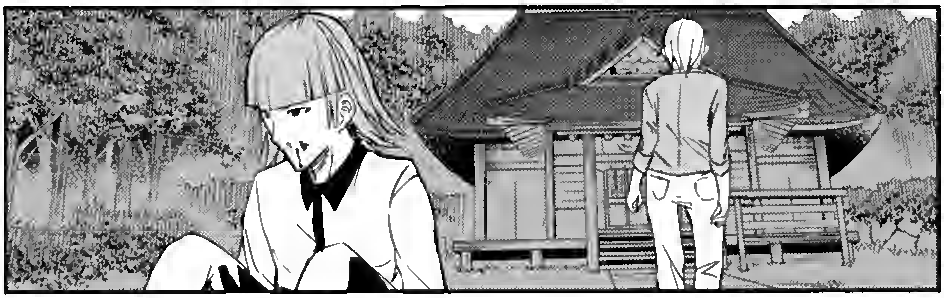
BELIEVE IN THE FAINT HOPE SERA'S DESTRUCTION MAY BRING AS I DO.
SO I ASK YOU, KURO FUKASE...
ALLOW THINGS TO PROCEED AS THEY ARE AND WELCOME THE END OF THE WORLD.
...I DON'T CARE.

IS THAT WHAT A HERO WOULD DO?
OPENING A PATH WITH DESTRUC-TION?
ARE YOU GOING TO KILL EVERY PERSON ON THE PLANET
JUST FOR THAT FAINT HOPE?
MAYBE I AM NO HERO...
PERHAPS IT WOULD BE FITTING TO CALL ME A VILLAIN...
I'M NOT TALKING ABOUT YOU.
NOT ME EITHER, OBVIOUSLY.
BUT SHE...

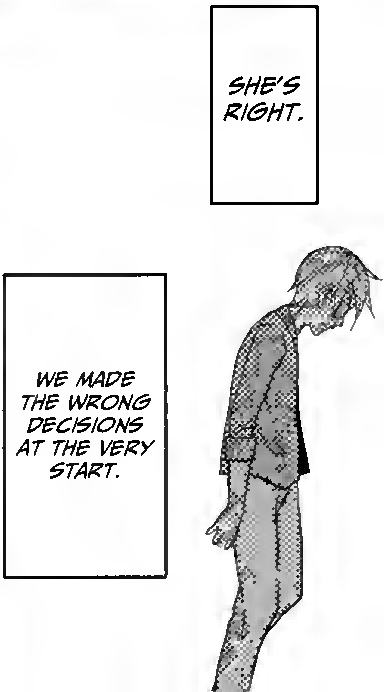
ALL SERA EVER WANTED WAS TO BE A HERO.
I'M THE ONE WHO'S GOING TO DESTROY THE WORLD.

WAIT, FUKASE.
DON'T BOTHER
SERA HIMEURA IS NOT HERE.
SHE TOLD ME...
IF KURO COMES LOOKING FOR ME,
HE'LL PROBABLY GO TO THE SHRINE.
YOU SHOULD WAIT FOR HIM THERE.
I'M SURE HE'LL TRY AND THINK OF SOME PLACE WHERE WE SHARED A MEMORY AND GO THERE.♪
SO IF HE COMES, TELL HIM THIS.

"WE NEVER HAD THE KIND OF RELATIONSHIP WHERE WE MADE MEMORIES, DID WE?"
THAT'S ALL.



I JOINED MOROKI AND KOKAGE,
AND SERA JOINED COLORFUL.
SHE AND I COULD HAVE GONE ON AN ADVENTURE TO SAVE THE WORLD TOGETHER, JUST LIKE SHE'D SAID.
IF WE'D MADE DIFFERENT CHOICES,


SHE'S RIGHT.
WE MADE THE WRONG DECISIONS AT THE VERY START.

SO THAT'S WHY...
THAT'S WHY I'M GOING TO FINISH THIS.
THEN TAKE THIS.
...I SEE.
THIS IS...

...SAVE SERA HIMEURA.
MORE THAN SHE KNOWS HERSELF.
OF COURSE, I KNOW EVERYTHING ABOUT HER AS WELL.
...I LEAVE THE REST TO YOU.
THIS IS A LIST OF PLACES SHE USES TO HIDE.
I'M NO HERO.
WHAT'S THAT SUPPOSED TO MEAN?
I'M JUST A VILLAIN WHO DOES WHATEVER HE WANTS.

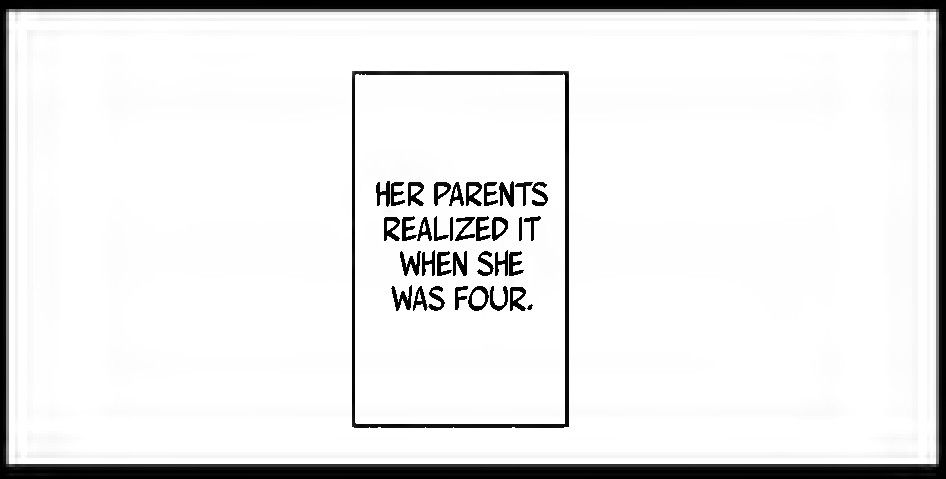
Chapter 24

PEOPLE ARE BORN WITH CERTAIN QUALITIES.

HEHEH...
SERA!
ARE YOU OKAY!?
AHA!
AHA HAHA!
HE'S STUPID!
PEOPLE CAN'T FLY LIKE BIRDS.
HE MUST'VE BEEN REALLY STUPID IF HE DIDN'T KNOW THAT.

Chapter 24:

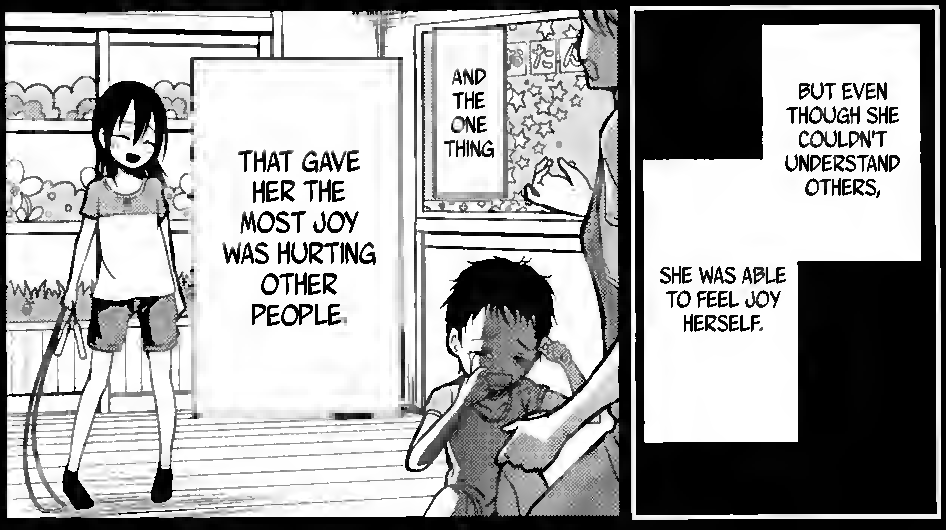
Evil



SHE COULDN'T UNDERSTAND THEIR ANGER.
SHE COULDN'T UNDERSTAND THEIR PAIN.
THEIR JOY.
THEIR SADNESS.
TO SYMPATHIZE WITH OTHER PEOPLE.
SHE LACKED THE BASIC HUMAN ABILITY

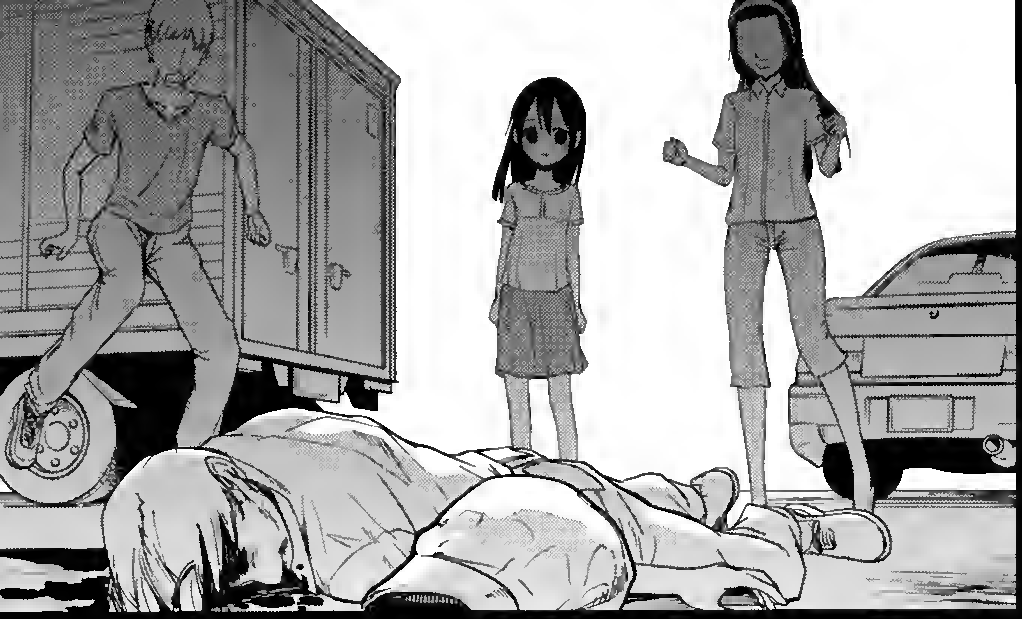
SHE COULDN'T UNDERSTAND

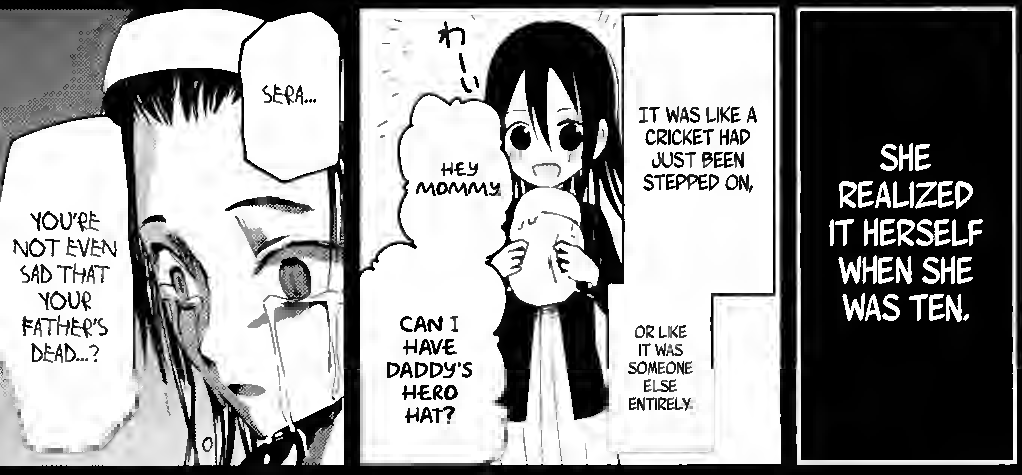
THEIR SUFFERING.


THAT GAVE HER THE MOST JOY WAS HURTING OTHER PEOPLE.
AND THE ONE THING
BUT EVEN THOUGH SHE COULDN'T UNDERSTAND OTHERS,
SHE WAS ABLE TO FEEL JOY HERSELF.

HER PARENTS REALIZED THIS,
BUT THEY COULDN'T GIVE UP ON THEIR DAUGHTER.
WHY CAN'T I KILL IT?
HMM...
I CAN TEACH YOU ABOUT JUSTICE EVERY SUNDAY MORNING!
The Arrangers is coming up next!!
IT'S HARD FOR ME TO PUT IT INTO WORDS.
BUT..
THEY WANTED TO GIVE HER A PROPER UPBRINGING,
AND KEPT TEACHING HER ABOUT JUSTICE.
IT ENVELOPED HER, LIKE A SIGN OF THEIR DEEP LOVE FOR HER.

SHE WAS BORN WITH A DIFFERING OPINION ON THE VALUE OF PEOPLE.
BUT THROUGH THEIR INCREDIBLE EFFORTS,
HER PARENTS WERE ABLE TO STABILIZE HER.
DADDY!
I WANNA BE A HERO TOO SOME DAY!
TIME HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH IT.
IF YOU WANT TO BE A HERO, THEN YOU'RE ALREADY A HERO.



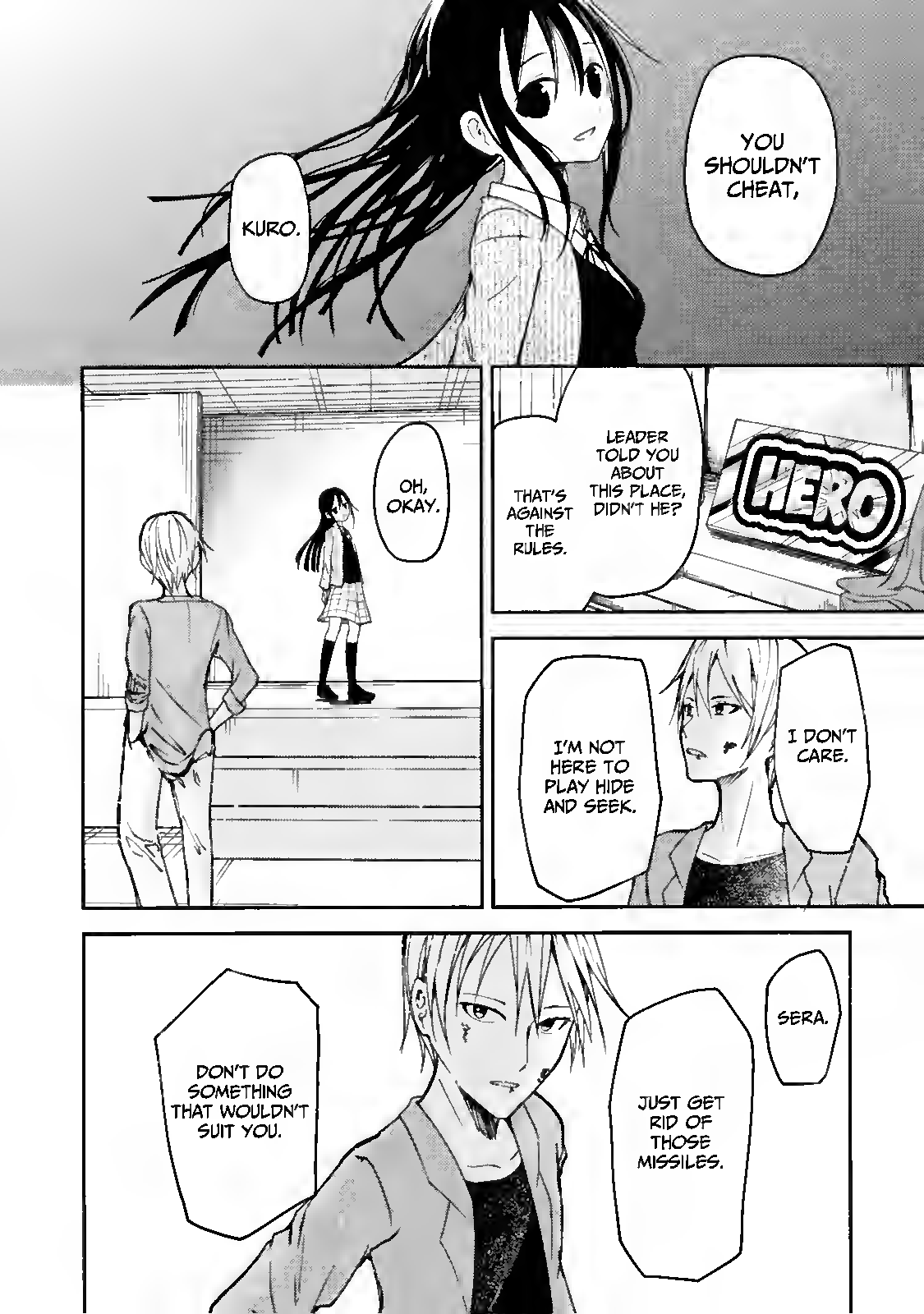

SHE REALIZED IT HERSELF WHEN SHE WAS TEN.
IT WAS LIKE A CRICKET HAD JUST BEEN STEPPED ON,
OR LIKE IT WAS SOMEONE ELSE ENTIRELY.
わ！
HEY MOMMY.
CAN I HAVE DADDY'S HERO HAT?
SERA...
YOU'RE NOT EVEN SAD THAT YOUR FATHER'S DEAD...?

SHE REALIZED IT
WHEN SHE DIDN'T FEEL A SINGLE THING UPON HER FATHER'S DEATH.

OH, RIGHT. THAT IS WEIRD.
HE LOVED YOU!!
EVERYONE ALWAYS CRIES WHEN THEIR PARENTS DIE.
I SEE IT ALL THE TIME ON TV...
WHY?
WHY?
SHE REALIZED THAT SHE LACKED SOMETHING.
YOU'RE NOT HUMAN!!
SHE LOVED HURTING OTHER PEOPLE.
パチ
SHE LOVED DOING THINGS THAT COULDN'T BE TAKEN BACK.
SHE LOVED WATCHING DESTRUCTION.
KNOWING THAT OTHERS HATED HER
WAS THE SINGLE GREATEST THING SHE COULD FEEL.
SHE WAS THE FURTHEST POSSIBLE THING
FROM JUSTICE.

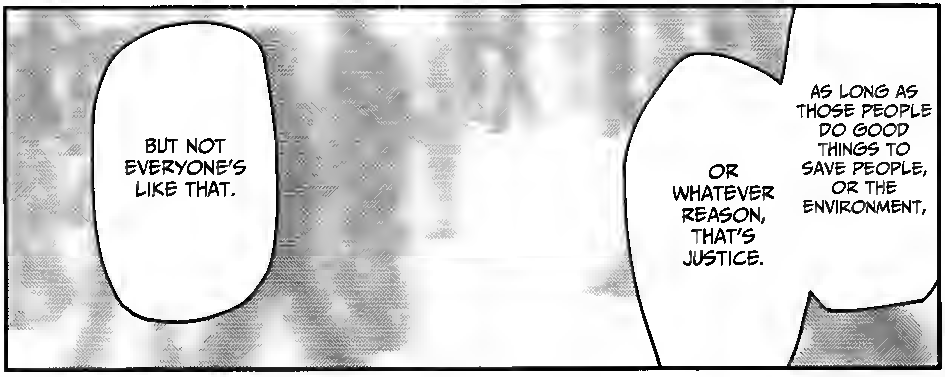
TO PUT IT IN WORDS,

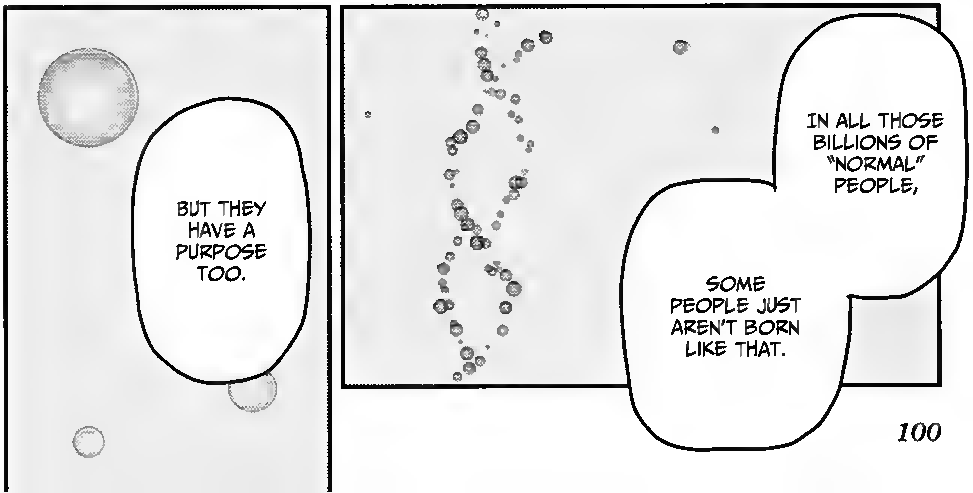
SHE WAS EVIL.


YOU SHOULDN'T CHEAT,
KURO.
OH, OKAY.
LEADER TOLD YOU ABOUT THIS PLACE, DIDN'T HE?
THAT'S AGAINST THE RULES.
HERO
I DON'T CARE.
I'M NOT HERE TO PLAY HIDE AND SEEK.
SERA.
JUST GET RID OF THOSE MISSILES.
DON'T DO SOMETHING THAT WOULDN'T SUIT YOU.

IT WOULDN'T SUIT ME?
HEY, KURO,
WHAT DO YOU KNOW ABOUT ME?
IF YOU ADDED UP ALL THE TIME WE'VE SPENT TOGETHER,
IT WOULDN'T EVEN MAKE A FULL DAY.
SO WHAT DO YOU KNOW ABOUT ME?
WERE WE LOVERS IN SOME PAST LIFE?
ARE WE TRUE COMPANIONS, BONDED BY FATE?
IF THAT'S THE CASE, THEN I'LL LISTEN TO YOU.
BUT IT'S NOT, IS IT?
IT COULDN'T BE.

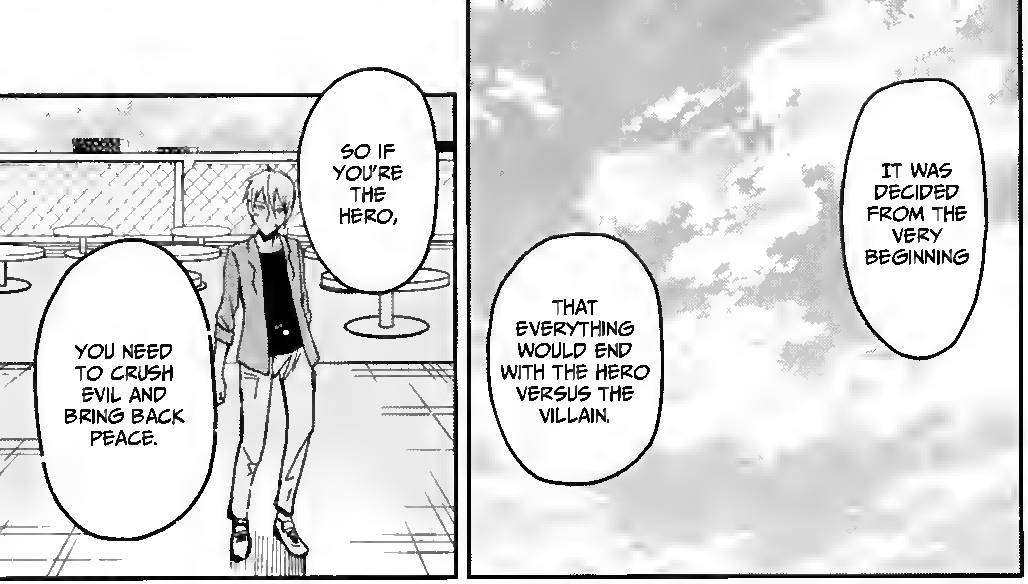
SOME PEOPLE ARE JUST CUT OUT FOR DIFFERENT THINGS.
HOW YOU'RE BORN AND HOW YOU'RE RAISED
DETERMINE WHAT QUALITIES A PERSON HAS.
I THINK THAT GOOD PEOPLE
JUST HAVE SOME SORT OF INTRINSIC GOODNESS.

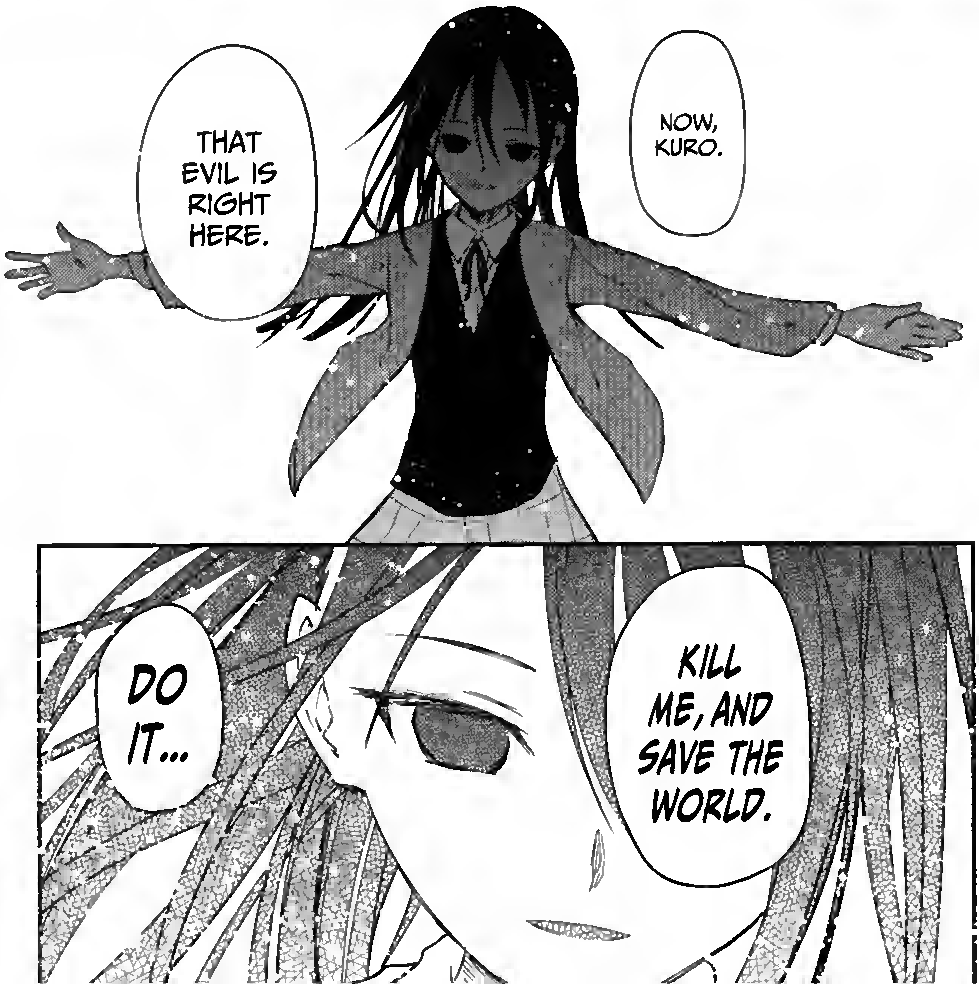

AS LONG AS THOSE PEOPLE DO GOOD THINGS TO SAVE PEOPLE, OR THE ENVIRONMENT,
OR WHATEVER REASON, THAT'S JUSTICE.
BUT NOT EVERYONE'S LIKE THAT.


IN ALL THOSE BILLIONS OF "NORMAL" PEOPLE,
SOME PEOPLE JUST AREN'T BORN LIKE THAT.
BUT THEY HAVE A PURPOSE TOO.

THEY ARE A NECESSARY EVIL.
FOR AN END THAT MIGHT NOT COME,
AND FOR SOMETHING THAT MIGHT BE HEAVEN,
I'LL STEAL WHAT LITTLE TIME EVERYONE HAS LEFT,
AND KILL THEM.
IF I WAS BORN EVIL,
THEN I WON'T FEEL BAD DOING THAT.
I'M THE RIGHT PERSON IN THE RIGHT PLACE AT THE RIGHT TIME.
I CAN DO THIS WITH A SMILE.

DEEP INSIDE ME,
I'VE ALWAYS BEEN SCREAMING FOR THIS.
THIS IS WHAT I ALWAYS WANTED TO DO.
NO,
THAT'S NOT REALLY IT.
I DON'T UNDERSTAND GOOD PEOPLE.
REALLY
MAKES ME WANNA PUKE.
FRIEND-SHIP,
LOVE,
KINDNESS,
JUST THINKING ABOUT ALL THAT


SO IF YOU'RE THE HERO,
YOU NEED TO CRUSH EVIL AND BRING BACK PEACE.
IT WAS DECIDED FROM THE VERY BEGINNING
THAT EVERYTHING WOULD END WITH THE HERO VERSUS THE VILLAIN.


THAT EVIL IS RIGHT HERE.
NOW, KURO.
DO IT...
KILL ME, AND SAVE THE WORLD.

NO, YOU'VE GOT IT ALL WRONG.

I'M NOT GOING TO SAVE THE WORLD,

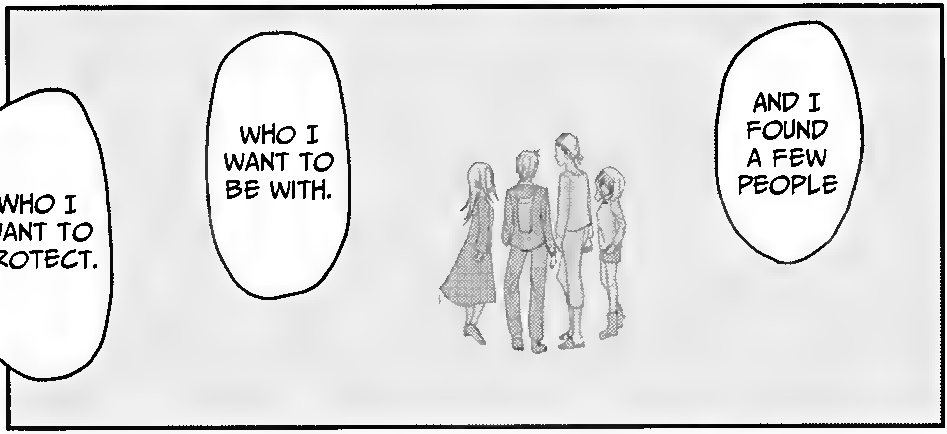
AND YOU'RE NOT GOING TO DESTROY IT.

A HERO?
WHAT DO YOU KNOW ABOUT ME?
YEAH, I WANTED TO SAVE PEOPLE.
I WANTED TO PROTECT PEOPLE.
BUT THAT WAS JUST ONE SINGLE WISH OUT OF MANY.
WHAT I REALLY WANT
HAS ALWAYS BEEN ONE THING.

THE ONE WHO'S GOING TO DESTROY THE WORLD
IS ME.

MY HATRED, SERA.
THIS IS
SO MANY THINGS HAVE HAPPENED OVER THESE LAST FEW MONTHS.
I MET SO MANY PEOPLE,
AND SAW SO MUCH DESPAIR AND HOPE.
AND MY TINY WORLD
GOT JUST A LITTLE BIGGER.

THE WORLD MIGHT BE A BEAUTIFUL PLACE.

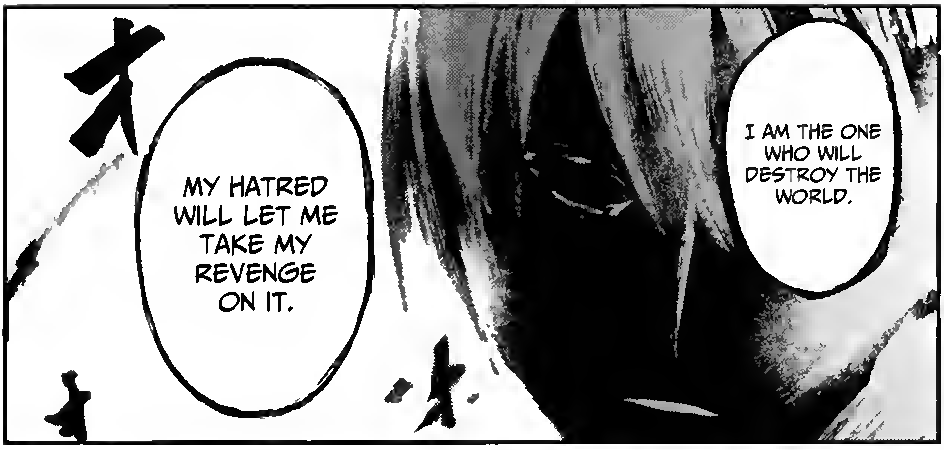

AND I FOUND A FEW PEOPLE
WHO I WANT TO BE WITH.
WHO I WANT TO PROTECT.

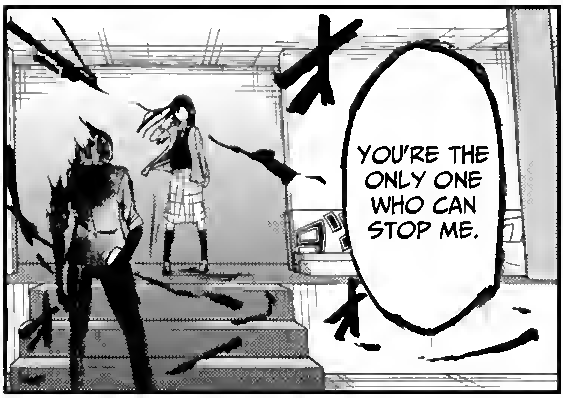
I FELT LIKE I SAW SOMETHING LIKE THE SHADOW OF WHAT COULD BE HAPPINESS.
BUT EVEN SO,
IT WASN'T ENOUGH.

I HATE THOSE PEOPLE WHO'VE NEVER SUFFERED AND HAVE EVERYTHING.
I HATE THOSE PEOPLE WHO NEVER SHARED WHAT THEY HAD.
THE MORE I LEARNED WHAT HAPPINESS FELT LIKE,
THE MORE I HATED THIS WORLD THAT STOLE IT FROM ME.

I HATE IT SO MUCH.
AND THE MORE I LEARNED ABOUT IT,
THE MORE MY BEAST GREW.
I HATE THIS WORLD
THAT'S GOING TO COME SOME DAY
AND STEAL EVEN THAT TINY BIT OF HAPPINESS FROM ME!!

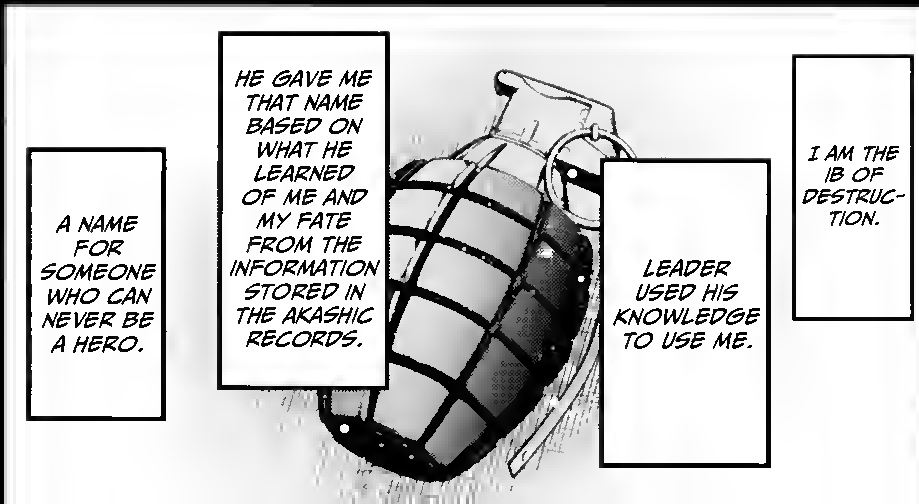
THIS IS
HOW I'VE ALWAYS REALLY FELT.


I AM THE ONE WHO WILL DESTROY THE WORLD.
MY HATRED WILL LET ME TAKE MY REVENGE ON IT.


YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE WHO CAN STOP ME.

SERA HIMEURA.
I CAN'T HOLD MYSELF BACK ANY-MORE.

I HAVE NO ENEMY.


I AM THE IB OF DESTRUC-TION.
LEADER USED HIS KNOWLEDGE TO USE ME.
HE GAVE ME THAT NAME BASED ON WHAT HE LEARNED OF ME AND MY FATE FROM THE INFORMATION STORED IN THE AKASHIC RECORDS.
A NAME FOR SOMEONE WHO CAN NEVER BE A HERO.

NO MATTER WHAT I DO, I CAN'T CHANGE THE WAY I WAS BORN.
I CAN'T CHANGE MY FATE.
PEOPLE LIE,
AND THEY LOVE,
BUT THEY CAN NEVER CHANGE.
IF YOU CONSIDER FORCIBLY REGULATING ONE'S MIND TO BE "CHANGE,"
THEN PEOPLE CAN CHANGE.
THEY TRY TO PRETEND TO BE GOOD PEOPLE
THEY TRY TO KEEP UP APPEARANCES
EVERYONE REALIZES IT.
I AM ME.
I CAN'T BECOME ANYONE ELSE.
BUT PEOPLE CAN'T BECOME BIRDS.

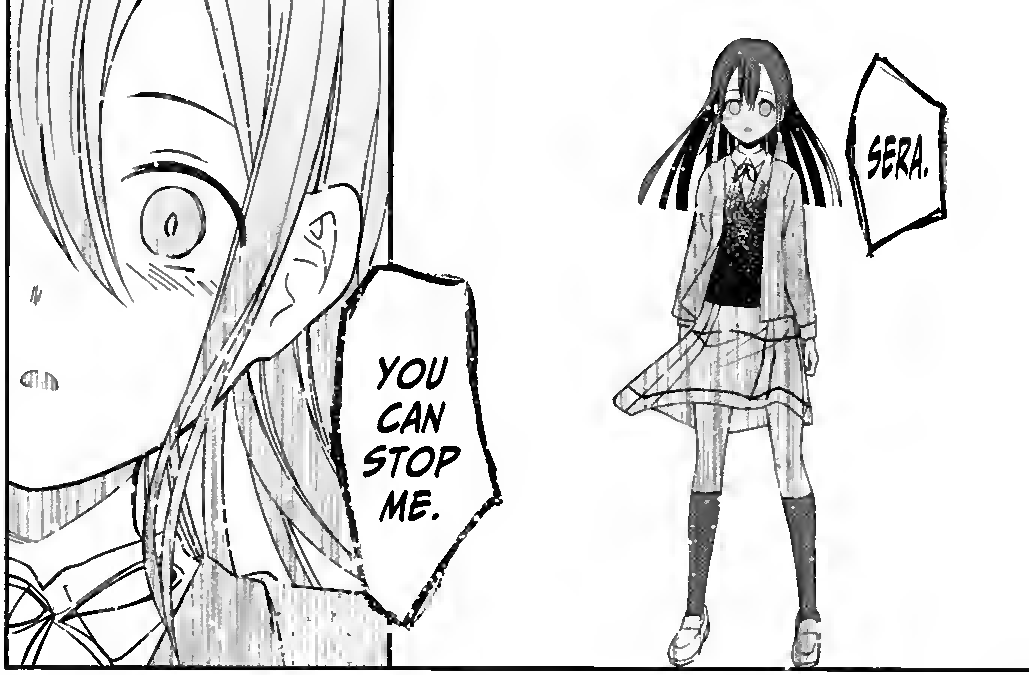
OR WHEN A PLAN I CAME UP WITH RESULTS IN SOMEONE'S DEATH.
OR WHEN I SEE SOMEONE WITH A LOOK OF UTTER DESPAIR ON THEIR FACE.
WHEN I STEP ON A BUG WHILE WALKING.
I AM HAPPY.
WHEN DID I SAY THAT I COULDN'T FIND ANY EVIL?
IF I THINK ABOUT IT, IT'S OBVIOUS
I MYSELF AM EVIL.

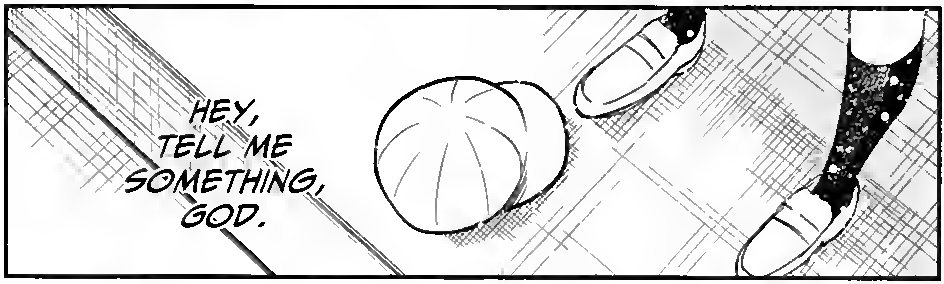
SO I JUST COULDN'T FIND ANYONE WHO WAS MORE EVIL THAN MYSELF.
I AM THE ONE WHO'S WRONG.
I CAN'T SEE EVIL PEOPLE AS EVIL
BECAUSE I CAN DO EVEN WORSE THINGS THAN THEY CAN.
SO I COULDN'T BECOME A HERO.
I COULD NEVER BE A HERO.

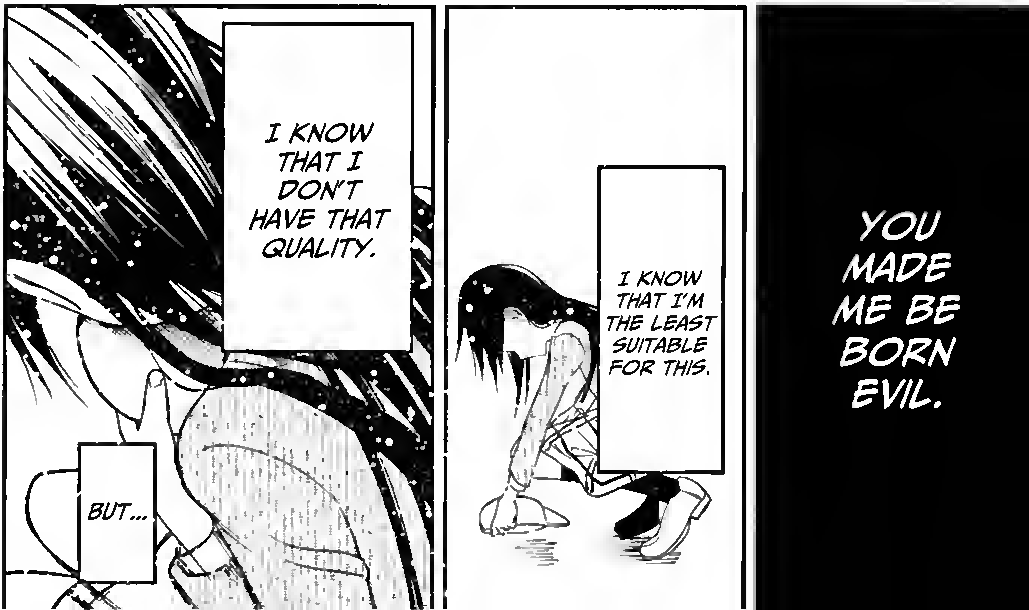
NO ONE ELSE WAS WRONG.
THERE IS NO EVIL OTHER THAN ME.
I HAVE NO ENEMY.
I HAVE NO ONE...
SERA HIMEURA.
ハァ

YOU TOLD ME
THAT YOU
WANTED TO BE A HERO SOME DAY.
-h
SO WHY NOT NOW!?
I DON'T KNOW HOW YOUR MIND WORKS,
SO YOU SHOULDN'T NEED ME TO TELL YOU THIS!

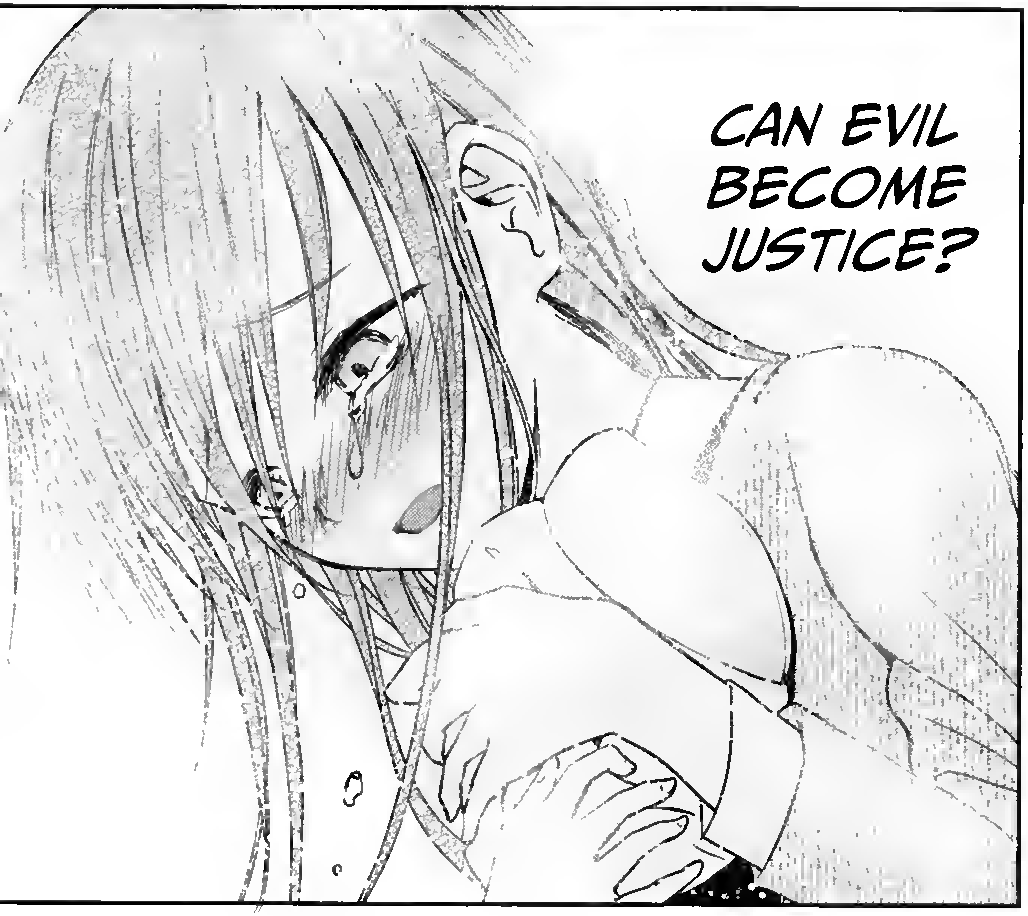
MORE WRONG THAN YOU ARE!
I AM
I AM RIGHT HERE!
I AM...
I AM YOUR ENEMY.

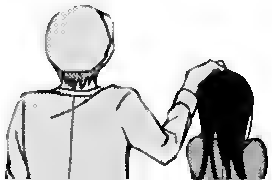

SERA.
YOU CAN STOP ME.


HEY, TELL ME SOMETHING, GOD.


I KNOW THAT I DON'T HAVE THAT QUALITY.
BUT...
I KNOW THAT I'M THE LEAST SUITABLE FOR THIS.
YOU MADE ME BE BORN EVIL.

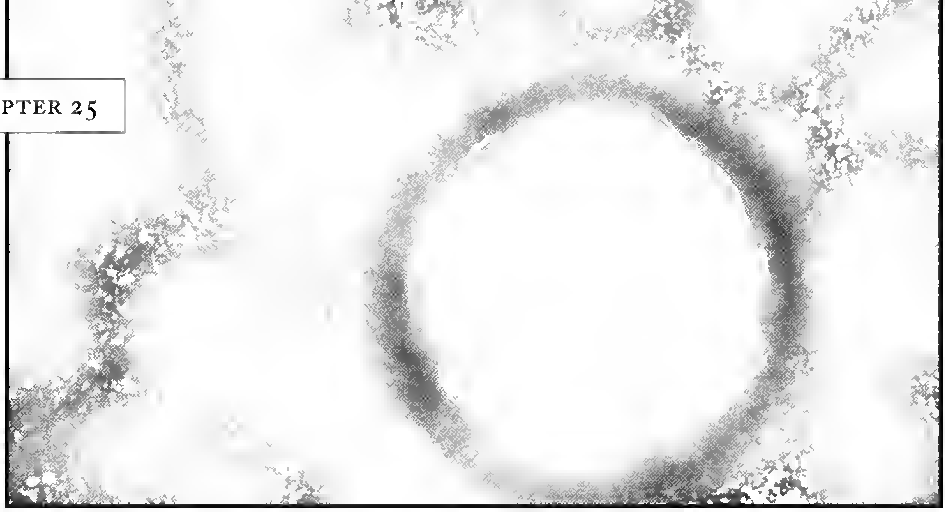
BUT EVEN SO,

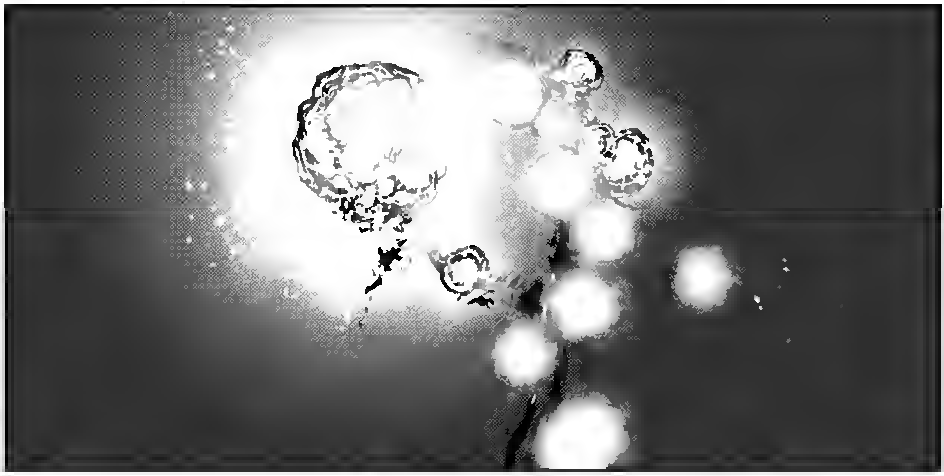




YEAH.
I FINALLY FOUND YOU,
MY ENEMY.

Chapter 25





BUT...
TO THE TASK OF MAKING HER RUN OUT OF BOMBS...
HE IS THE ONE MOST SUITED

FUKASE FIGHTING SERA HIMEURA?
IS THAT

THAT IS
PURE EVIL.

KURO WAS SUPPOSED TO BECOME A KIND, STRONG HERO!
WHY IS THIS HAPPENING?
KURO BECAME KIND. HE WANTED TO SAVE PEOPLE.
AOI
BUT THAT COULDN'T MAKE HIS HATE GO AWAY.

THOSE WOUNDS THE WORLD GAVE US
WERE TOO DEEP.
THERE WASN'T ENOUGH TIME FOR THAT TO HAPPEN.
THE WORLD IS STILL CRUEL.
HE BECAME STRONG, BUT NOT STRONG ENOUGH.

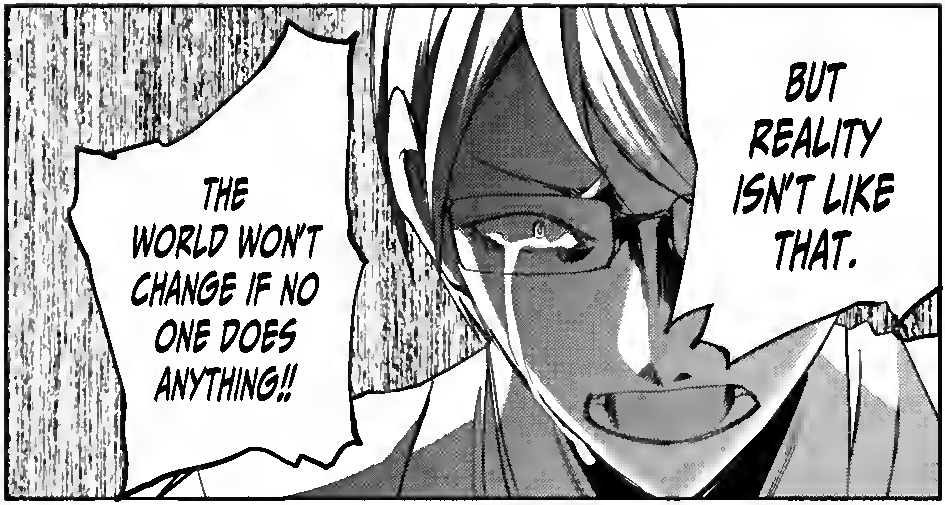
THE WEAK CANNOT SAVE THE WEAK.
IS THIS WHAT LONELINESS IS?
THE WEAK CANNOT SAVE THE STRONG.
ALL YOU NEED IS FOR ONE PERSON TO LOVE YOU!

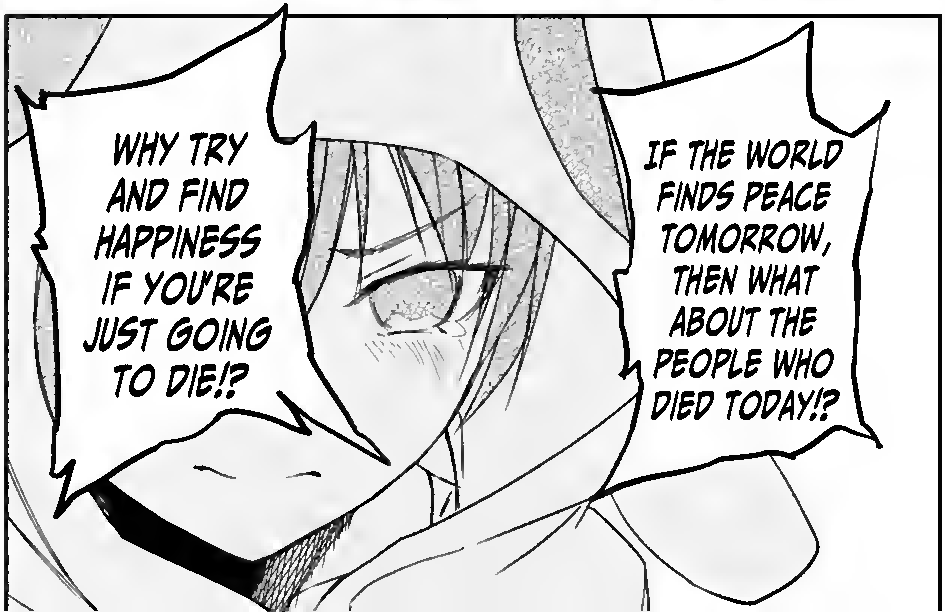
I JUST WANTED ONE PERSON TO SAY THEY LOVED ME!
BUT I COULDN'T FIND ANYONE!

I WANTED TO LOVE MYSELF.
I STOPPED CARING WHAT WOULD HAPPEN TO THE WORLD.
THIS TINY PAIN IS ALL I HAVE.

IN THE END, NOTHING HAS ANY MEANING.
IF THE WORLD LETS YOU,
THEN WHAT'S WRONG WITH ONLY WISHING FOR YOUR OWN HAP-PINESS?
WHAT IS IT THAT BRINGS HAPPINESS?
BEING WITH EVERYONE...

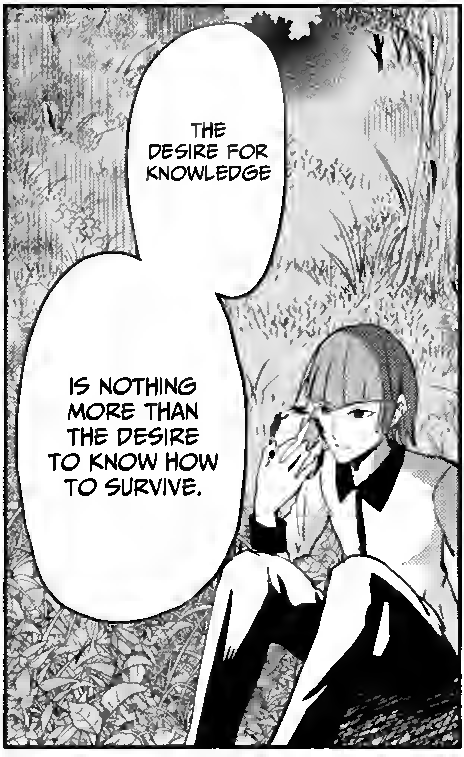
THERE SHOULD BE A WAY FOR EVERYONE TO BE HAPPY.
FOR EVERYONE TO SMILE.
IT SHOULDN'T BE WRONG TO THINK THAT!

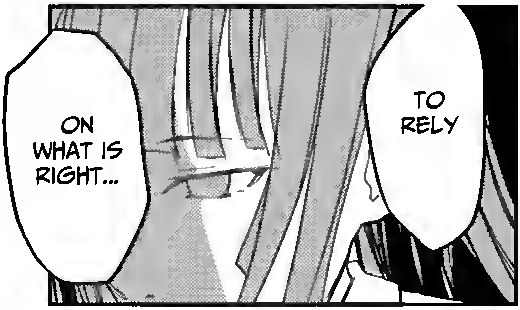

BUT REALITY ISN'T LIKE THAT.
THE WORLD WON'T CHANGE IF NO ONE DOES ANYTHING!!


IF THE WORLD FINDS PEACE TOMORROW, THEN WHAT ABOUT THE PEOPLE WHO DIED TODAY!?
WHY TRY AND FIND HAPPINESS IF YOU'RE JUST GOING TO DIE!?

ISN'T THAT JUST USING THE PROCESS OF ELIMINATION TO SEE WHO SURVIVES!!?

I WANT TO KNOW WHAT IS RIGHT.


THE DESIRE FOR KNOWLEDGE
IS NOTHING MORE THAN THE DESIRE TO KNOW HOW TO SURVIVE.


TO RELY
ON WHAT IS RIGHT...

I WAS SCARED.

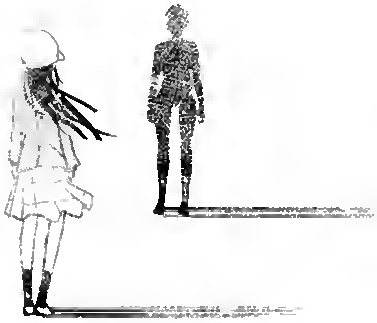
THAT MIGHT BE WHAT JUSTICE REALLY IS.
BECAUSE I DIDN'T HAVE FAITH IN MY OWN WISH, SOMEONE ELSE'S WISH COULD BE GRANTED.
WHEN THE WORLD ENDS, ALL OF HUMANITY WILL BE FREED FROM THEIR LONELINESS!!
PAIN IS THE ONLY LANGUAGE ALL HUMANS SPEAK!!
THERE'S ONLY ONE WAY TO FREE SOMEONE FROM THEIR LONELINESS IN THIS WORLD!
TO MAKE THEM SHARE YOUR SUFFERING!!
YOU CAN BE THE HERO OF YOUR OWN WORLD.
HOW BIG THE WORLD IS DEPENDS ON THE PERSON.

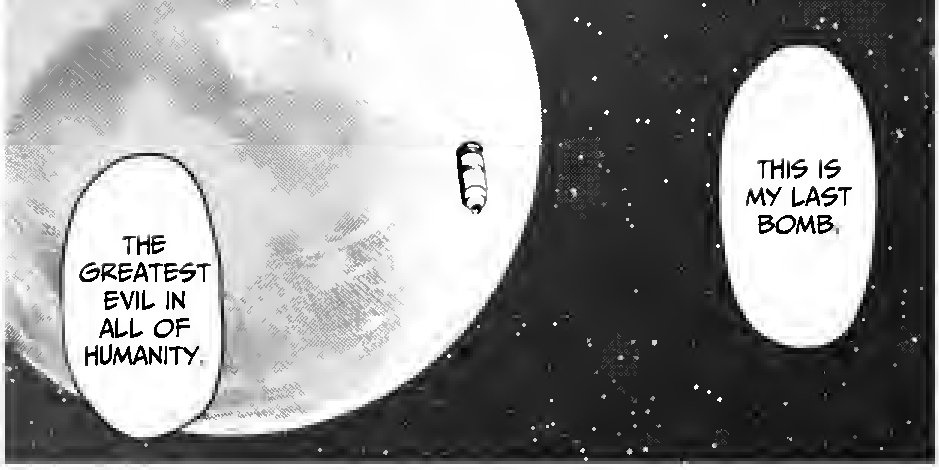
PEOPLE'S WISHES
I HAVE A WISH TOO.
AREN'T JUST "GOOD" OR "EVIL."
AND SOME WISHES ARE WORTH MORE TO THEM THAN LIFE ITSELF.

I WANT TO BE HAPPY.

STOP HIM!
YOU'RE AN IB TOO! YOU CAN DO IT, CAN'T YOU!?
FUKASE IS GOING TO DIE!
I DO NOT HAVE THAT POWER.
OH, FORGET IT!
LET ME SEE YOUR WATCH!
WHAT ARE YOU...?
AND EVEN IF I DID, I COULD NOT GO THERE...
!!
I REALLY DIDN'T WANT TO DO THIS,
BUT I DON'T HAVE A CHOICE...!

ARE YOU...!?





THERE WON'T BE EVEN A TRACE OF YOUR EVIL LEFT.

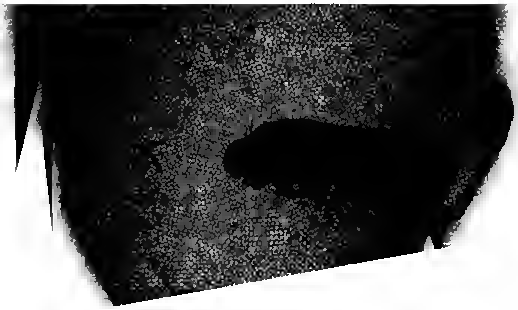
IF YOU TAKE THAT,

WANTED TO DESTROY THE WORLD.

I'M SURE WHOEVER MADE IT

THINKS ABOUT DESTROYING THE WORLD.
EVERY-ONE
EVERYONE DOES.
SO UNFAIR.
IT'S SO,
NO MATTER HOW PRECIOUS IT WAS TO YOU.
ONCE YOU LOSE SOMETHING, YOU CAN NEVER GET IT BACK.
IT'LL ALWAYS BE TOO LATE.

YOU'LL JUST BE CRYING IN LONELINESS TO AN EMPTY WORLD.



BUT IF EVEN ONE PERSON REACHES OUT TO YOU AND SAVES YOU...

THE BRIDGES YOU'VE MADE WILL DISAPPEAR AGAIN.

AND LIVE A CAREFREE LIFE,

IF YOU IGNORE THE SACRIFICES OTHERS MAKE

THAT THIS WORLD IS WRONG.

EVERYONE REALIZES

BUT I COULDN'T DO IT.

I
BECAUSE
LOVE EVERYONE.
COULDN'T CANCEL EACH OTHER OUT.
MY WISH FOR DESTRUC-TION
AND MY WISH FOR EVERYONE TO BE HAPPY
I COULDN'T MOVE FORWARDS OR BACK-WARDS.
OR HOW MANY WISHES WERE ENTRUSTED TO ME,
NO MATTER HOW HARD I WISHED,
I WAS TOO SCARED TO DO ANYTHING.

I COULDN'T BECOME ANYTHING...
OR LOVE SOMEONE.
I COULDN'T DESTROY THE WORLD

IT HURT SO MUCH.

BUT
IF I'M WITH A HERO,

THEN I CAN FINALLY BE SOMETHING.

BE SOME-THING...
I CAN FINALLY
THANK YOU, SERA.
I SHOULD BE THANKING YOU, KURO.

IF YOU BECOME EVIL,
THEN I CAN BECOME JUSTICE.
HEY,
IS THIS ONE OF THOSE "CONNECTION" THINGS THEY SAY PEOPLE HAVE?
IF SOMEONE GIVES YOU A ROLE,
THEN YOU CAN BE SOMETHING FOR THAT PERSON
IS THAT KIND OF RELATIONSHIP WHAT THEY CALL A BOND?

JUST LIKE THAT,
MY LONE-LINESS IS GONE.
I WISH I'D KNOWN THAT A LONG TIME AGO.
IT'S TIME.

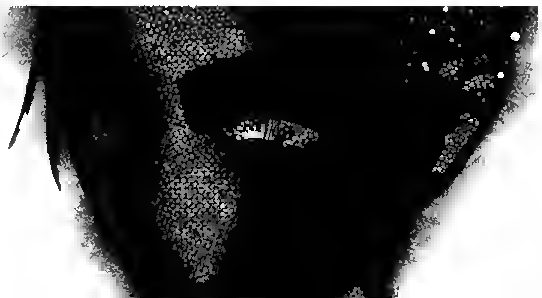
SERA...

IT'LL BE OKAY, KURO.

I'LL DISAPPEAR WITH YOU.

IN THE END, WE CAN BECOME SOMETHING TOGETHER.

THAT SHOULD BE ENOUGH.

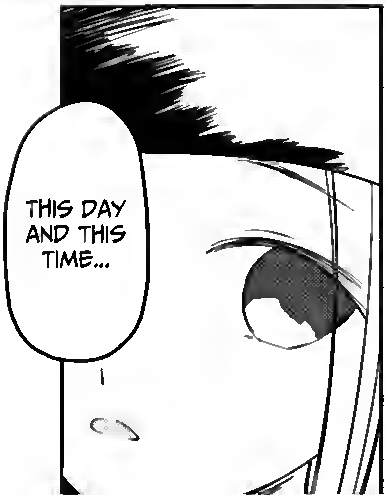


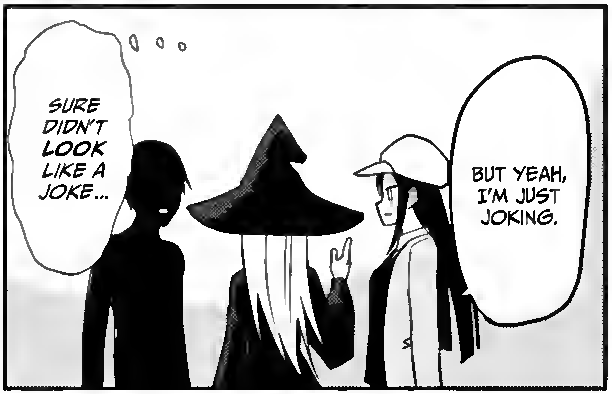
SO WILL YOU HOLD MY HAND
ONE LAST TIME?

OH, KNOCK IT OFF!
LIKE HELL I'M LETTING YOU GO THROUGH WITH THIS DOUBLE SUICIDE CRAP!

AND YOU THINK YOU CAN FOOL AROUND WITH SOME OTHER GIRL JUST BECAUSE I'M DEAD!? WELL THINK AGAIN!!
KEEP YOUR HANDS OFF HIM!!
You homewrecker!
YOU! KURO IS MY BOY-FRIEND!!
A ghost...?
WAIT... WHAT...
WHA...
I CAME HERE FROM THE PAST!
HEY, TIME TRAVEL, REMEMBER?
しゃーん

うるうる
I GOT REALLY SAD...
YOU MIGHT END UP GOING OUT WITH SOMEONE ELSE,
WHEN I THOUGHT ABOUT HOW AFTER I DIED,
SO SIMPLE, YET SO DEADLY!!
It's a real live yandere!!
SO I CAME HERE!
AND THEN I REALIZED THAT I COULD POP UP WHENEVER YOU WERE ABOUT TO SCORE!

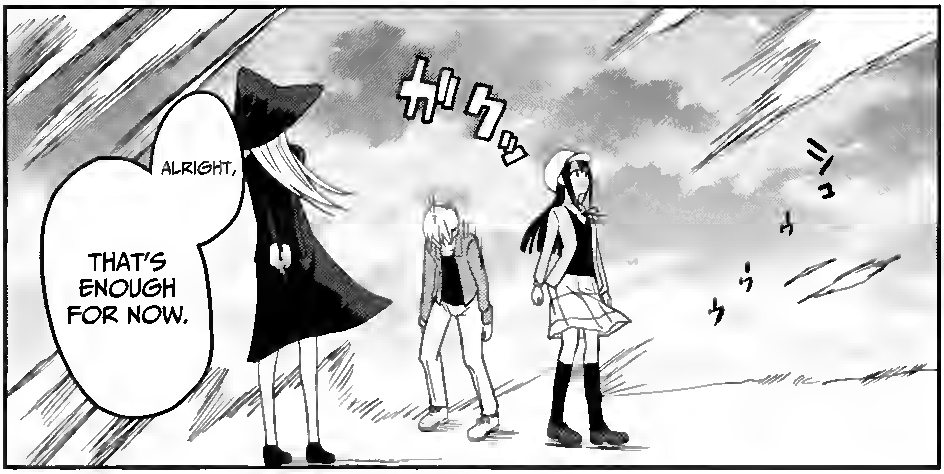

THIS DAY AND THIS TIME...


SURE DIDN'T LOOK LIKE A JOKE...
BUT YEAH, I'M JUST JOKING.

SHE COMMITTED IT TO MEMORY.
SO I CAME HERE.
PISSED
YOU DYING WITH SOME OTHER GIRL IS A BIG NO-NO.
YOU'RE *MINE*.
YOU GET IT!?
YOU DON'T GET TO OGLE ANY GIRL BUT HER!

WHAT IS WITH HER...
WHA...
OH YEAH, AND I SWAPPED OUT THE INSIDE OF THAT BOMB WITH SOME FIREWORKS, SO JUST GIVE UP.
SO IT WAS ALL FOR NOTHING...
DON'T WORRY, SERA.
!?
TONS OF PEOPLE MUCH WORSE THAN KURO ARE GONNA START SHOWING UP.
HUH!? REALLY!?
SORRY, KURO! JUST DIE ALONE!!
COULD YOU NOT SAY IT LIKE THAT?
ペカー

WHAT THE HELL...


ALRIGHT, THAT'S ENOUGH FOR NOW.

SEE YA.♥
HUH!?

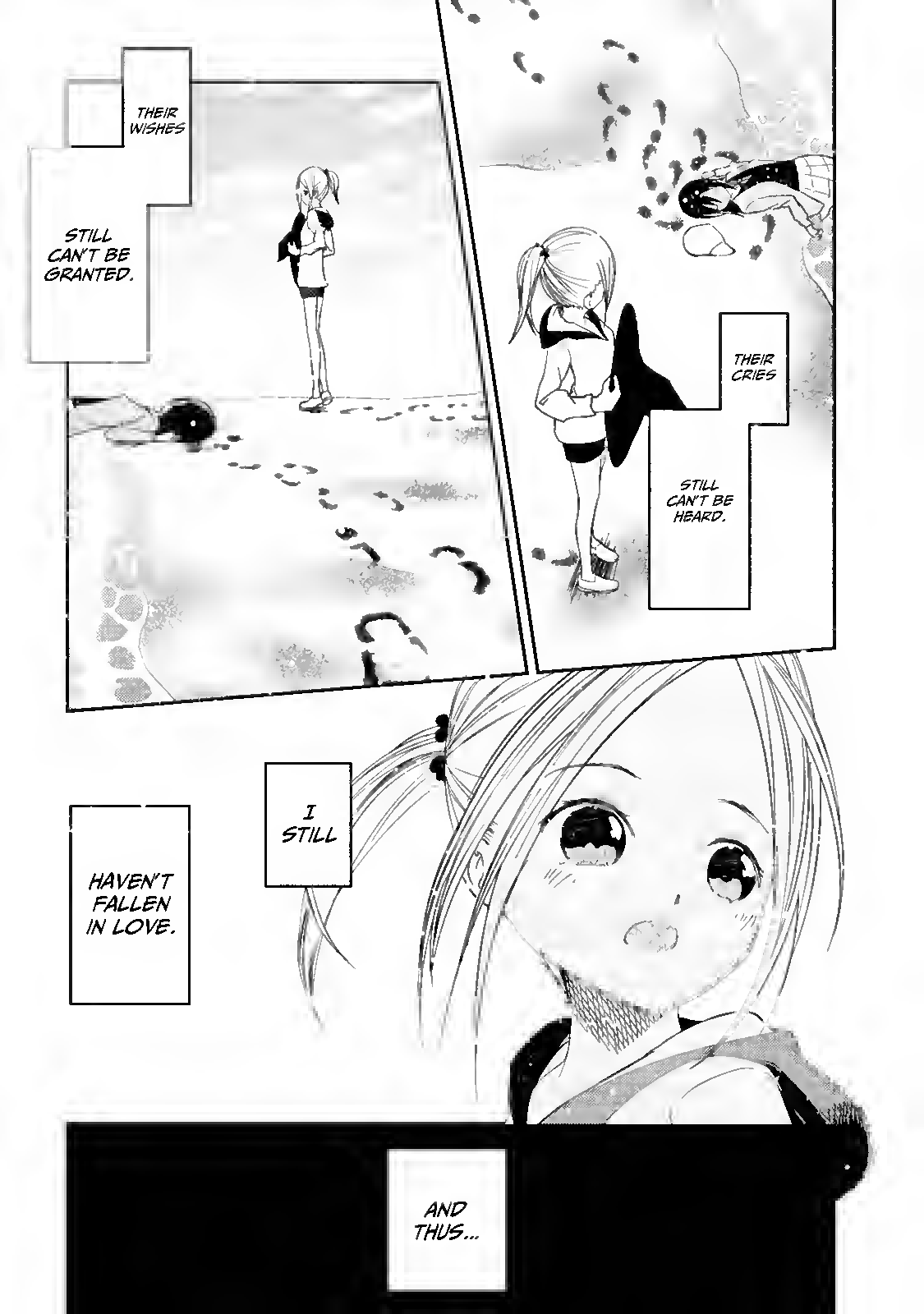
WAAAHH!!

LATER, KURO!
YOU'LL SEE ME ANOTHER TWO OR THREE TIMES!
WHAT THE HELL, YOU IDIOT!?
I STILL HAVEN'T...

WAIT, DAMN IT!!
I CAN'T BE WITH YOU,
BUT I'LL BE WATCHING OVER YOU FROM THE PAST.
IT'S STILL TOO SOON FOR THIS TO END WITH MY DEATH.
NO MATTER HOW MUCH IT HURTS, OR HOW LONELY YOU ARE,
AS LONG AS YOU HAVE A FUTURE, KEEP ON LIVING.

AND THUS, THE WORLD MOVES ON.

DESPITE EVERY-THING,
THE WORLD'S LIFE HAS BEEN EXTENDED.
IT FELT LIKE SOMEONE SAID
THAT WE STILL DON'T HAVE ENOUGH TIME.
EVEN IF WE FORGIVE IT,
EVEN IF WE DESTROY IT,


THEIR WISHES
STILL CAN'T BE GRANTED.
THEIR CRIES
STILL CAN'T BE HEARD.
I STILL
HAVEN'T FALLEN IN LOVE.
AND THUS...

THE STORY OF AN ENDING WORLD
CONTINUES ON.

(A·B)

pnd

I hate afterwords
I'm not a part of this story. I'm an outsider.
Anything I say about this story's ending would be the words of an outsider, so I don't have an absolute opinion on it.
But in a way, this story came from inside me, so I can talk about it with that sort of relationship without being a complete outsider.
I want to thank you so much for giving me this opportunity.

Instant Bullet is something I've been working on since I was in high school.
It's my life's work.
I always thought that if I became a manga artist, I wanted this to be my first original series.
I can't just leave it all in my head. Kuro's past, Yume's future, Sera's path to being a hero, Moroki's insanity, and Kokage's love.
The suffering and stories of the members of Colorful. Their true enemy.
Just what are the Instant Bullets?
I can't just let it end without even getting the chance to explain the title.
It isn't complete.

I want to continue this story.
I'm not sure how. I could start from here, or back at the beginning.
Maybe I could change the title and start it as a new series.
Maybe I could even continue it as a light novel series.

But for now, Instant Bullet ends here.
I think I'll make a name for myself as an artist, get a bit more reputation, and save up my work on Instant Bullet.
I want to be free to draw this the way I want to.
So if you can keep supporting me, I feel like that day might not be too far off... Hopefully.
I want to write a story where I don't have to keep thinking "Just give me one more volume to finish it!" (seriously.)

But still, I thought a rookie like me would be canceled after two or three volumes, so just being able to get to five volumes like this makes me so thankful I can't even put it into words.
To all the people I've met along the way, to my friends, my assistants, my editor, Mr. Yoshioka, everyone who helped me get published, and all the people at the stores who sold the volumes,

Thank you so, so much.

I'm going to continue this world for a little longer.
Instant Bullet isn't dead yet.
I hope you'll lend me your power one more time.

And so, let's meet again some day in Instant Bullet, which doesn't have an afterword.

Aka Akasaka